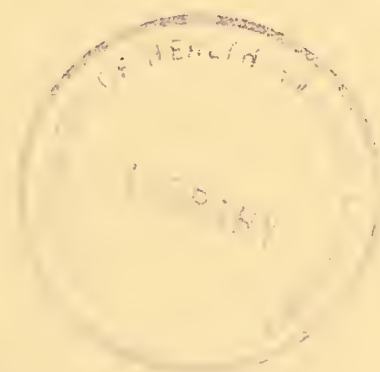




NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF

**THE COUNTY  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR

**1969**



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NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE COUNTY  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

**1969**

# HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1969

---

## *Chairman :*

Councillor Mrs. J. G. M. HEPPELL

## *Vice-Chairman :*

Alderman A. BRIGGS, O.B.E.

## *Aldermen :*

ALLAN, Mrs. M.  
DAWSON, D., O.B.E.  
EASTON, T.  
FLEMING, Miss M. E. S.  
GARROW, Sir NICHOLAS, O.B.E.  
GRAY, J.

HORN, T.  
LANGMAN, Mrs. C.  
ORDE, Mrs. C. L.  
PHILLIPS, J., D.C.M.  
RICHARDSON, Mrs. J.  
SHARP, Mrs. J.

## *Councillors :*

APPLEBY, W.  
BOND, Mrs. S. G.  
CARR, Mrs. C.  
CHAPMAN, S.  
CHARTRES, R. A. H.  
DIXON, N. J.  
GIBSON, G. W.  
JOHNSTON, A. R.  
McFADYEN, J. A.

McNEIL, Mrs. M., M.B.E.  
MOORE, J. S.  
PERCY, Mrs. A.  
STEPHENSON, Mrs. E. M.  
SUMMERS, Mrs. L. M.  
TATE, Mrs. J.  
TOWERS, Mrs. A. E. M.  
WYLIE, Mrs. M. E.

## *Co-opted Members :*

BIRKETT, J.  
PAULIN, Mrs. J. S. C.  
SIMPSON-BRASS, Dr. A. McK.

SLACK, W. RENTON B.  
WAKE, Mrs. A., M.B.E.

## *Ex-Officio Members :*

Alderman The Right Hon. VISCOUNT RIDLEY, T.D., D.L.  
(Chairman of the Council)  
Alderman G. R. WARDLE (Vice-Chairman of the Council).  
Alderman S. T. PICKUP (Chairman of the Finance Committee).

## *Standing Sub-Committees :*

Finance and General Purposes  
\*Midwifery General Nursing and Child Care  
\*Mental Health  
\*Ambulance Services  
Area Health Sub-Committees (8)  
\*Management Sub-Committees of Old Persons Homes (5)

\*With effect from the 24th June, 1969, these Sub-Committees ceased to exist and were replaced by the Personal Health Services (taking over the work of the former Midwifery, General Nursing and Child Care and Mental Health Sub-Committees) and Homes Sub-Committees (replacing the Management Sub-Committees of Old Persons Homes). The work of the Ambulance Services Sub-Committee is now the responsibility of the Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee.



## STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

---

County Medical Officer and Principal School Medical Officer .. ..	J. B. Tilley, O.B.E., M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Deputy County Medical Officer ..	W. Minns, M.B.E., T.D., M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Senior Medical Officer for Child Health and Medical Supervisor of Midwives	Doris Story, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Senior School Medical Officer .. ..	Sybil A. B. Ward, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Area Executive Medical Officers—	
North 1 and 2 Areas .. ..	I. G. P. Fraser, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Central Area .. ..	Kathleen Dick, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
East Area .. ..	A. Donaldson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
South Area .. ..	H. C. T. Smith, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.P.A.
South East Area .. ..	A. W. Hay, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (Resigned 7/9/69) G. M. Cubie, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Commenced 1/12/69)
Wallsend Area .. ..	G. M. Cubie, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Resigned 30/11/69)
West Area .. ..	J. M. McEwan, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
County Welfare Officer .. ..	D. N. Holt (Retired 31/3/69)
Welfare Services Officer .. ..	A. K. Huddleston, C.S.W. (Commenced 8/9/69)
Administrative Assistant .. ..	E. W. Woodcock
Medical Officers for Child Health ..	Margaret Jordon, M.B., B.S. Anna M. Reid, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Blanche Sykes, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. *Frances A. Potter, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.
Senior Assistant School Medical Officer	Marion Harrison, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
School Medical Officers .. ..	Anne Carruthers, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. Mary J. Danskin, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H. *Nest David, M.B., B.Ch., D.R.C.O.G., B.Sc. Muriel M. Eustace, L.R.C.P. & S.I., D.P.H. F. W. Fordyce, M.B., B.S. *Shirley Jackson, M.D. J. F. Mather, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., D.P.H. Margaret H. McKeith, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. *Beatrice M. Noble, M.B., B.S. R. B. Smith, M.B., Ch.B. Lilian F. White, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Chest Physicians* .. ..	J. M. Gilmore, M.D., D.P.H. J. R. Lauckner, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., F.R.F.P.S. P. O. Leggat, M.D., M.R.C.P. A. R. Somner, M.D., F.R.C.P.E. E. A. Spriggs, D.M., F.R.C.P. C. Verity, M.D., D.P.H. F. L. Wollaston, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

## Staff of the Health Department—*continued.*

Principal Dental Officer	..	..	A. E. Robinson, F.D.S., R.C.S.
Deputy Principal Dental Officer	..	..	T. A. Ireland, L.D.S.
Orthodontist	..	..	G. W. Pettigrew, L.D.S., D.D.O.
Area Dental Officers—			
North Area	..	..	S. J. Smithson, L.D.S.
South Area	..	..	G. C. J. Long, B.D.S.
East Area	..	..	C. L. Carmichael, B.D.S.
West Area	..	..	Helen C. Gent, B.D.S.
Senior Dental Officers	..	..	R. S. Ferrell, L.D.S.
			Margaret I. Lamb, L.D.S.
			(Resigned 31/8/69)
			Patricia Nicholson, L.D.S.
			W. Robson, L.D.S.
			E. G. Stuart, B.D.S.
			R. W. Whittingham, B.D.S.
Dental Officers	..	..	I. W. Atchison, B.D.S.
			I. R. Atkinson, B.D.S.
			(Commenced 1/9/69)
			M. S. Baglee, B.D.S. (Resigned 28/2/69)
			P. R. A. Bennett, B.D.S.
			G. W. R. Bryant, L.D.S.
			(Commenced 1/4/69)
			H. J. Coombes, L.D.S.
			C. I. Cousins, B.D.S.
			Sheila M. Crute, B.D.S.
			Wilma S. Drury, L.D.S.
			*Margaret P. Furness, B.D.S.
			(Commenced 2/9/69)
			T. D. Harrison, B.D.S.
			(Resigned 31/3/69)
			J. F. Horseman, L.D.S.
			J. D. Lamb, B.D.S.
			J. W. K. Lumbley, L.D.S.
			T. M. Mahadervan, L.D.S.
			C. A. Nutt, L.D.S.
			I. Stonehouse, B.D.S.
			(Commenced 1/9/69)
			Olive I. Wears, B.D.S.
			Shirley E. Williams, L.D.S.
Dental Auxiliary	..	..	Anne M. Southern (Commenced 1/9/69)
County Nursing Officer	..	..	Yvette Esme Buckoke, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert., Nursing Admin. (Public Health) Cert.
Area Nursing Officers	..	..	Noel Cowley, S.R.N., C.M.B. (Part I), H.V. Cert.
			Sheila N. Lockey, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert., Nursing Admin. Cert. (Edin. Univ.)
			Gladys Saint, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
Health Visitors	..	..	104
Midwives	..	..	17
District Nurse/Midwives	..	..	49
District Nurses	..	..	61
Total Community Nursing Staff	..	..	231
Social Worker	..	..	Dorothy L. Dunn
County Health Inspector	..	..	D. Lister, Cert.S.I.B., F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.

## Staff of the Health Department—*continued.*

Ambulance Officer	..	..	..	H. Wade
Deputy Ambulance Officer	..	..	..	S. Wilkes (Resigned 16/3/69) R. Percy (Commenced 1/5/69)
Station Officers	..	..	..	12
Control Staff	..	..	..	8
Hospital Transport Officer				1
Ambulance Drivers	..	..	..	136
Motor Mechanics	..	..	..	6
Senior Mental Welfare Officer	..	..	..	L. Armstrong (transferred to Administration 1/8/69) T. Pattie, C.S.W. (commenced 1/8/69)
Mental Welfare Officers	..	..	..	J. A. Denton, S.R.N., S.R.M.N., C.S.W. (resigned 16/11/69) W. C. Elliott I. C. Forster, S.R.M.N. G. T. Harrison A. M. C. Laing (resigned 19/12/69) E. G. Palmer (commenced 27/10/69) T. Pattie, C.S.W. (appointed Senior Mental Welfare Officer on 1/8/69) W. R. Pringle J. J. D. Richardson R. Tebble C. I. Vass J. E. Walker, C.S.W.
Welfare Assistants	..	..	..	*Sheila A. Colman, B.A. (Soc.). (Commenced 2/10/69) Patricia McCready, B.Sc.(Soc.). (Commenced 2/9/69) Maud Winters (resigned 21/7/69)
Supervisors of Training Centres—				
Alnwick	..	..	..	G. Cummings, Dip.N.A.M.H.
Ashington	..	..	..	Nancy E. Anderson, Dip.N.A.M.H.
Bedlington	..	..	..	Margaret Fisher, R.M.P.A.
Berwick	..	..	..	Alfreda M. Small, Dip.N.A.M.H.
Hexham	..	..	..	Margaret Usher, Dip. Teacher, M.H.
Prudhoe	..	..	..	Margaret Tulip, R.M.P.A.
Wallsend	..	..	..	G. Sanderson, M.B.E., Dip.N.A.M.H., R.M.P.A.
Industrial Units—				
Blyth	..	..	..	D. R. L. Dunsmuir, Dip. Teacher, M.H.
Willington Quay	..	..	..	J. A. McDonald, Dip. Teacher, M.H. (Resigned 27/4/69) K. T. Foggan, Dip. Teacher, M.H. (Commenced 19/5/69)
Home Help Organisers	..	..	..	Rose A. Atkinson Mary J. W. Beal Mary Murphy Marion Ritchie
Home Helps	..	..	..	1,066
Chiropodists	..	..	..	S. H. Brown, L.Ch. *Muriel I. Bryce, S.R.Ch. (Resigned 30/6/69) Laura T. Clarke, L.Ch. R. W. Davison, S.R.Ch. R. J. Falkous, L.Ch. J. Flynn, L.Ch., H.Ch.D.



## Staff of the Health Department—*continued.*

			*Mary M. C. Kerr, M.Ch.S. (Resigned 31/5/69)
			*Claudine D. Kyffin, M.Ch.S. (Resigned 19/4/69)
			Veronica M. McCarthy, M.Ch.S. (Commenced 5/9/69)
			Sandra McNaughton, M.Ch.S. (Commenced 7/7/69)
			*Sheila Redfearn, M.Ch.S. (Resigned 5/9/69)
			*Barbara A. Vernon, M.Ch.S. Susan G. Watson, S.R.Ch.
			*Heather Wolters, M.Ch.S. (Commenced 29/1/69) (Resigned 9/8/69)
Supervisor of Welfare of the Handicapped.. .. .			Eileen Metcalfe, H.T.Cert.
Social Welfare Officers of the Blind ..			Joan Duell, H.T.Cert. Jane T. Hogarth, H.T. Cert. Isobel M. Kay, H.T. Cert. Hilary G. Loten, H.T. Cert.
			*Mary Marshall, H.T. Cert. (Resigned 31/12/69)
			Margaret McGuire, H.T. Cert. Joyce H. I. Thompson, H.T. Cert.
Welfare Visitor for Physically Handicapped.. .. .			M. Winifred Patterson, H.T. Cert.
Welfare Assistants .. .. .			Lillias Deagle Pauline Farries Joan C. Lamb
Handicraft Instructors .. .. .			Gertrude M. Atchison Maureen M. F. Baingridge (Resigned 28/2/69)
			*Margaret J. H. Cadzow, M.A.O.T.
			*Rachel Darling, M.A.O.T. Elizabeth Garbutt Evelyn M. Hall Elizabeth Purvis (commenced 10/3/69)
Superintendents and/or Matrons of Welfare Homes—			
Essendene, Ashington .. .. .			Marguerite M. Barnfather
Bell View, Belford .. .. .			Annie Barrs
Seton Hall, Tweedmouth .. .. .			Phyllis M. Dickson
Cowpen House, Blyth .. .. .			Beatrice I. Colvin
Doxford Hall, Chathill .. .. .			Dorrien Shirran, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Greenholme, Haltwhistle .. .. .			Lilian M. Matthews.
Nicholas Garrow Home, Hepscott..			Mary E. Mattison
Haining Croft, Hexham .. .. .			Marion J. Reed
Merley Croft, Morpeth .. .. .			Eleanor N. Thompson, S.E.N.
Northfield, Morpeth.. .. .			W. J. Minter and Mary Minter, S.R.N.
Springfield, Morpeth .. .. .			W. J. Minter and Mary Minter, S.R.N.
Priorsdale, Newcastle .. .. .			Isabella J. McGarrigle, S.E.N.
Thomas Taylor Homes, Stannington			W. J. Minter and Mary Minter, S.R.N.
Tynedale, Wallsend.. .. .			Margaret N. Reavley
Ralph Allan Home, Warkworth ..			J. C. Cooke and Megan Cooke, S.E.N.
Earsdon Grange, Whitley Bay ..			Lucy Whiteman, S.E.N. (Resigned 31/10/69)

\* *Part-time*



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman,

This report on the health of Northumberland in 1969 and the activities of the Health Department for that year reviews the statistics by which the health of a community is measured and the changes in the various sections of the Department that go to make up the whole of its work. The figures in general may be regarded with some satisfaction and some deserve special comment. It is worthy of note that the infant mortality rate was the lowest ever recorded in the county and that this and the other infant death figures were all below the rates for England and Wales, as this is indicative of the high standard of ante-natal and infant care which is achieved in the county by the family doctors, the hospitals and the staff of the Department working in close co-operation. The absence of diphtheria and poliomyelitis showed how successfully the immunisation campaign was maintained and the relatively small number of cases of measles gave some indication of the success that can be expected ultimately from the protection which is now offered against this disease. The scheme for B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis under which 84,000 individuals have now been protected can be taken to have played a measurable part in the reduction in the notifications of the disease to the lowest in any one year in the county, and the fact that tuberculosis caused no death under the age of 45 also points to the success of the scheme. Not all the figures, however, give such grounds for satisfaction as these, and the continued increase in mortality from cancer of the lung shows how much has yet to be done to reduce cigarette smoking in the community.

Perhaps the most significant figure as far as the future of the county is concerned was the birth rate which was the lowest ever recorded. The fall in the birth rate has gone on now for the past seven years, and there were some 1,400 fewer births in this year than there were in 1963. This reduction of about 16% clearly affects the work of the public health nursing staff, and must affect the infant schools in ensuing years. The fact of the reduction in births must be related fairly directly to the increase in the use of the family planning clinics. There are now 17 clinics provided by the Department and the attendances have increased from 1,100 in 1965 to over 5,000 in this year.

The report gives a full account of the work of the public health nursing staff and the success of the schemes for the staff to work attached to general medical practices is worthy of mention once more. A number of new schemes was initiated during the year and now some three quarters of the staff work on this basis.



The review of the work of the Department shows changes of varying degree in several sections. The sale of National Dried Milk is now less than half of what it was five years ago, and the machinery of distribution may need to be reviewed. The work of the home helps has steadily increased over five years, but may now have reached a stage where increases will be less marked. The steady increase in chiropody was maintained and quite appreciable expansion in this field must be provided for in the future.

It has become increasingly apparent that to meet the demands made upon them it is important that ambulancemen should have a high standard of training, and a great step forward was taken during the year with the establishment of the North East Ambulance Training School. The county service carried a greater number of patients than ever before with increased organisational efficiency as shown by the ratio of mileage to patients.

In the welfare field continued advances were made with special housing and this was most welcome as hitherto progress had been slow. Work went ahead with the new home at Cramlington and this is now open. The approval by the Council of proposals for additional new homes for inclusion in the capital programme for the years ahead will so increase the accommodation that if the Regional Hospital Board is able to provide adequate beds for geriatric patients to overcome the present shortage the need for a waiting list for admission may be eliminated.

Although the report does not deal in detail with the work of health centres I am glad to be able to report that the centre at Woodlands Park operated well throughout the year. Progress was made with the Bedlington centre and it is now operating successfully. A good deal of preliminary work was done with other schemes and the report next year should show much progress in this field. It is clear that the Council must become increasingly concerned in this method of providing accommodation in which the public may receive medical care under first class conditions unless any changes occur following the two Green Papers which were issued on the health services which could place the responsibility for these centres with a different authority.

Whether or not any changes in the administration of the health services come about, the work which the Department does must go on though the methods of providing some services may alter. The need to provide dental treatment for mothers and infants continues even though there is a slow decline in the volume of work in this field carried out by the Council's dental staff. The special place of the school dental service is clear, but the relationship of our maternity and child dental service with the general dental service needs careful thought. The need for a continued child health

service with special emphasis on development was accepted by the Sheldon Committee and the service is well maintained in the county with the help of an appreciable number of family doctors. It is to be expected that this number will increase in the years ahead. The closer integration of domiciliary nursing staff with family doctors paves the way for better use of community services and earlier discharge from hospital. The immunisation programmes must be maintained and indeed expanded to deal with rubella and to consolidate the attack on measles. The possibility of prevention of many upper respiratory infections may as yet be remote, but must remain the aim of the preventive health service, and investigations in the community with a view to reducing the toll that cancer exacts must be developed. The community physician of the future has an enormous task ahead of him : the successes of the past in environmental hygiene and bacteriological control stand as examples of what can be achieved.

The report is a bare outline of the considerable amount of work that is carried out with skill, consideration and care by the members of the staff of the Department and I am greatly indebted to them for their unfailing support. I am specially grateful to Dr. Minns for, amongst other things, his help with the preparation of the report. The interest that the members of the Health Committee have evinced in the work of the Department and the problems of the staff throughout the year is appreciated by everyone, and I would like to thank the Chairman of the Committee particularly for her help and advice.

I am, My Lord,

Your obedient Servant,



*County Medical Officer of Health.*

ARDEN HOUSE,  
REGENT CENTRE,  
GOSFORTH,  
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE3 3JF.  
Telephone : Gosforth 859011.



# REPORT OF THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1969

## VITAL STATISTICS

Population	..	..	..	..	..	..	510,300
Live Births—							
Number	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,048
Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.8
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births)	..	..					5.6
Still Births	..						
Number	..	..	..	..	..	..	89
Rate per thousand total live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.5
Total live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,137
Infant Deaths (under one year)	..	..	..	..	..	..	110
Infant mortality rates—							
Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.6
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.9
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..						27.9
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.6
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.4
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under one week per 1,000 total live and still births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	21.7
Maternal mortality (including abortion)—							
Number of deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.4

## Population

The population of the county increased by just over 1% to 510,300. The most appreciable increase in the county districts was in Newburn and Seaton Valley. The difference between the births and the deaths contributed less than a thousand of the total increase of 5,600.

## Birth Rate

There were 7,048 children born in the county during the year which was 123 less than in the previous year and nearly 1,400 less than in 1963. The fall in the birth rate over recent years continued and the rate of 13.81 per 1,000 population was the lowest ever recorded in the county.

## Infant Mortality Rate

The death rate in infants under the age of one year has fallen steadily over a long period and has been halved in less than 20 years. This year the rate fell to 15.61 per 1,000 live births which was the lowest ever recorded in the county, and lower than the national rate. The still birth rate at 12.47, and the early neonatal death rate at 9.36, both reached record low levels, and were also below the national rate.

## General Death Rate

The general death rate was 12.40 per 1,000 population, which was a slight decrease on the previous year and greater than the national rate.

### PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF MORTALITY :—

The total number of deaths from all causes was 6,325. The chief causes are shown in the following table :—

	NUMBER OF DEATHS		
	1969	1968	1967
Heart Disease :—			
Ischaemic Heart Disease ..	1,702	1,750	1,403*
Hypertensive Disease ..	98	119	67*
Others .. .. .	360	399	641*
	———— 2,160	———— 2,268	———— 2,111*
Malignant Neoplasm :—			
Buccal Cavity etc. .. ..	22†	—	—
Oesophagus .. .. .	37†	—	—
Stomach .. .. .	154	169	130
Intestine .. .. .	191†	—	—
Larynx.. .. .	2†	—	—
Lung, Bronchus .. ..	316	302	273
Breast .. .. .	87	109	79
Uterus .. .. .	40	39	41
Prostate .. .. .	36†	—	—
Others .. .. .	307	566	481
	———— 1,192	———— 1,185	———— 1,004
Vascular Lesions of Nervous			
System.. .. .	998	932	999
Bronchitis .. .. .	371	334	292
Pneumonia .. .. .	366	375	227
Motor Vehicle and other			
Accidents .. .. .	220	209	229
Other Diseases of Circulatory			
System.. .. .	239	285	238
	———— 5,546	———— 5,588	———— 5,100

\* Not comparable with 1968 and 1969 figures.

† Included in ' Others ' in 1967 and 1968 figures.

It is doubtful if the fall in the number of deaths from heart disease is significant ; more significant is the combined increase in the mortality from cancer of the lung and bronchus despite the campaign against cigarette smoking which has been maintained over the past few years.

## ROAD SAFETY

I am indebted to Mr. C. H. Cooksley, Chief Constable of the Northumberland Constabulary for the figures in the following paragraphs on casualties on County roads.

The number of persons killed was again reduced from 65 to 58 even though there was an obvious increase in traffic on the roads. There was a small increase in child casualties and included in the total of 65 are twelve children killed.

The completion of the dual carriageway on the Coast Road (A1058) has made this a much faster entry to the City and so long as pedestrians will refrain from jay walking across the two carriageways the numbers killed and injured will continue to decrease and in 38 accidents there were only two fatalities.

The improvements to the A1 continue in the form of the Wideopen-Seaton Burn By-pass and this too will show greatly improved safety within the next two years.

Road accidents between 10.00 p.m. and midnight are now considerably less than during the peak rush hours of 4 — 6 p.m. and it is clear that this must be a direct result of the Road Safety Act, 1967.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The infectious diseases which are notifiable by medical practitioners to medical officers of health were the same as stated in last year's report. Only the incidence of measles and infective jaundice was significant during the year. The former in its first epidemic year since vaccination started, only accounted for 274 cases as against 2,679 last year and 4,673 in 1967 — an epidemic year.

The number of notifications of infective jaundice increased from 189 to 460 as doctors became aware that all cases should be notified. Morpeth Rural District, with 114 cases and the Alnwick Urban and Rural Districts with 102 and 50 cases, were the hardest hit.

Sixteen cases of food poisoning were notified from seven different areas.

The County was, once again, free from diphtheria, poliomyelitis, smallpox and ophthalmia neonatorum.



## NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACTS

### Co-operation with hospital and family doctor services

The report refers in several sections to the co-operation between the Council's services and the hospital and general practitioner services, but it is perhaps useful to bring together all the facts upon which the references are based. The following list sets out the main areas of co-operation between the services :—

- 127 family doctors see their ante-natal patients in the county clinics assisted by the department's midwives and health visitors ;
- 20 health visitors and 20 midwives attend ante-natal clinics in practitioners' premises ;
- 2 health visitors attend child health sessions in practitioners' premises. (In addition 5 health visitors attend in surgeries where a fee is paid by the County Council to the general practitioner for the use of his premises) ;
- 43 family doctors attend county child health clinics, 7 of which are held in general practice premises ;
- 49 family doctors carry out cervical smears in county clinics ;
- 74 health visitors and 80 district nurses are attached to general practices ;
- 5 consultant orthopaedic surgeons conduct clinics for children in 7 county premises ;
- 6 consultant ophthalmologists conduct eye sessions in 24 county clinics ;
- 1 consultant psychiatrist held sessions for subnormals in a county clinic.

In addition hospitals have direct contact with district nurses, health visitors and midwives and the mental welfare officers have regular consultation and instruction sessions in the psychiatric hospitals.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES

(Dr. D. STORY)

### Notification and Registration of Births

The live birth rate again showed a fall from 14.2 to 13.8 per thousand population and the total registered births fell from 7,171 to 7,048. The birth rate for England and Wales was 16.3 compared with an adjusted rate for the County of 13.9 per thousand population.

Notified births numbered 6,956. 6,724 or 96.7% of these took place in hospital compared with 94.4% last year.

### Still Births

The stillbirth rate fell from 13.6 to 12.5 per thousand registered births. This is the lowest figure ever recorded in the County and is lower than the national average of 13.0 per thousand. Of these 89 births, 59 were premature.

### Premature Births

The number of premature births fell from 567 to 502. This was 7.0% of total births. The number of neo-natal deaths in premature babies was 45 out of a total of 443 live premature births. The following statistics are of interest :—

	1967	1968	1969
Premature births per cent of total births .. .. .	6.7	7.7	7.0
Premature births per cent of total live births .. .. .	5.8	7.1	6.3
Premature neo-natal deaths per cent of total neo-natal deaths ..	57.0	69.9	54.8
Premature stillbirths per cent of total stillbirths .. .. .	68.6	59.6	66.3
Premature babies survived 4 weeks per cent of total live premature births .. .. .	87.8	88.6	89.8

### Neo-Natal Deaths

The mortality of babies in the first four weeks of life at 11.6 per thousand live births, was unchanged from the previous year but the following table shows the improvement which has occurred in recent years.

1964	..	..	..	14.93
1965	..	..	..	12.07
1966	..	..	..	13.49
1967	..	..	..	12.5
1968	..	..	..	11.6
1969	..	..	..	11.6

It will be seen from the following table that of the 7,048 births 82 babies died before reaching the age of one month compared with 83 last year :—

Intraventricular Haemorrhage .. .. .	1
Anoxia—Prematurity .. .. .	1
Congenital Abnormalities .. .. .	22
Bronchopneumonia .. .. .	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage .. .. .	6
Death due to drowning .. .. .	1
Severe Prematurity .. .. .	24
Hepatitis — Hydrocephalus .. .. .	1
Respiratory Distress Syndrome — Prematurity .. .. .	12
Cerebral Anoxia .. .. .	2
Asphyxia due to cord prolapse .. .. .	1
Hyaline Membrane Disease .. .. .	1
Pneumonia — Prematurity .. .. .	1
Severe Haematemesis — Prematurity .. .. .	1
Coliform Meningitis .. .. .	1
Intra-Uterine Anoxia .. .. .	1
Hypoglycaemia .. .. .	1
Haemolytic Disease of Newborn .. .. .	1
Mesenteric Infarction .. .. .	1
Asphyxia .. .. .	1
Total .. .. .	82

### Infant Deaths

The infant mortality rate showed a decrease from 16.5 to 15.6 the number of babies dying in their first year being 110 compared with 118 in 1968. Thus for the third year, the infant mortality rate for the County was lower than that for England and Wales which was 18.0 per 1,000 live births.

Details of deaths were as follows :—

	Boroughs and Urban Districts			Rural Districts			Total		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Leukaemia .. .. .	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Meningitis .. .. .	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	2	2
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2
Pneumonia .. .. .	8	4	12	1	—	1	9	4	13
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	1	4	1	—	1	4	1	5
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ..	—	2	2	—	1	1	—	3	3
Other Diseases of Digestive System ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Congenital Anomalies .. .. .	12	8	20	3	3	6	15	11	26
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc. ..	13	12	25	3	1	4	16	13	29
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality ..	10	3	13	6	2	8	16	5	21
All other Accidents .. .. .	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	4	4
All other External Causes .. .. .	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
	50	38	88	14	8	22	64	46	110



### Illegitimate Births

The total of 7,137 live and stillbirths included 403 which were illegitimate and of these nine were stillborn. Illegitimate births were 5.6% of all live births compared with 5.8% last year and 6.0% in 1967.

### Perinatal Mortality

The perinatal mortality rate is the sum of the early neo-natal deaths plus stillbirths per thousand total births.

There were 66 early neo-natal deaths and 89 stillbirths and the resultant perinatal mortality rate is 21.7 compared with 23.0 last year. This is the lowest figure recorded for the County.

The rates in Northumberland over the last five years, compared with the national rate were as follows :—

<i>Year</i>		<i>Northumberland</i>		<i>England &amp; Wales</i>
1965	..	27.6	..	26.9
1966	..	28.1	..	26.3
1967	..	24.1	..	25.4
1968	..	23.1	..	25.0
1969	..	21.7	..	23.0

### Maternal Mortality

There were three maternal deaths which represents a rate of 0.4 per thousand total births compared with a figure for the whole country of 0.19.

### Care of Unmarried Mothers

The Newcastle Diocesan Council for Moral Welfare Work continued to arrange for expectant mothers in need of care to be admitted to the Diocesan Home at Elswick Lodge or to other suitable homes in the area and during the year 43 such cases were dealt with.



# VITAL STATISTICS

## Rates for Northumberland compared with England and Wales

Year	Still Births		Neo Natal Mortality		Early Neo Natal Mortality		Perinatal Mortality		Infant Mortality		Maternal Mortality	
	County	E. & W.	County	E. & W.	County	E. & W.	County	E. & W.	County	E. & W.	County	E. & W.
1964	15.9	16.3	14.9	13.8	12.7	12.1	28.5	28.2	20.1	19.9	0.12	0.25
1965	16.9	15.8	12.0	13.0	10.9	11.3	27.6	26.9	16.0	19.0	0.24	0.25
1966	16.8	15.4	13.5	12.9	11.5	11.1	28.1	26.3	20.1	19.0	0.13	0.26
1967	13.9	14.8	12.5	12.5	10.4	10.8	24.1	25.4	17.6	18.3	0.00	0.20
1968	13.6	14.0	11.5	12.3	9.5	10.5	23.1	25.0	16.5	18.0	0.00	0.24
1969	12.5	13.0	11.5	12.0	9.4	10.0	21.7	23.0	15.6	18.0	0.42	0.19

### Child Health Clinics

Child health clinics in the County retain their popularity and 31,790 children made a total of 128,192 attendances : of the infants born during 1969 93% attended clinics for an initial examination. The medical staff of the department attended 1664 sessions ; 1154 sessions were attended by general practitioners and 1765 by other doctors working part time in child health clinics.

The help and advice given to mothers in clinics is greatly appreciated and regular developmental examinations of the children lead to the early detection of any departure from normal and to prompt assessment and help. A screening test for hearing is carried out at 7—9 months.

Year	No. of Clinics	No. of half-day sessions held	Total No. of children attending	Total attendances
1965	92	6,079	32,219	155,321
1966	89	6,037	31,752	145,168
1967	89	5,922	31,928	140,945
1968	87	5,956	31,643	133,331
1969	86	5,930	31,790	128,192

Year of Attendance	Number of children who attended :—		
	Born in years :—		
1968	1968	1967	1963/66
	6,830	7,267	17,546
1969	Born in years :—		
	1969	1968	1964/7
	6,466	7,722	17,602

During the year the clinic at Woodlands Park was extended to include surgeries for general practitioners in the area and it is now a health centre. This has proved to be of great benefit to the residents in the area.

There are now 28 purpose built clinics and 14 clinics in especially adapted buildings, bringing the total number of county owned clinic premises to 42.

### OBSERVATION REGISTER

The register of children born at risk of developing handicapping conditions has been continued throughout the year. When this register was first started it was hoped to include all the vulnerable groups of infants, as indicated by Dr. Mary Sheridan. In the

intervening five years it has become clear that the criteria used were not sufficiently precise and that the register would contain large numbers of children, very few of whom would eventually be handicapped. The criteria have now been reduced to factors which are known to precede handicapping conditions in a reasonable number of infants and during 1969, 330 of these children were included in the register.

### CONGENITAL ABNORMALITIES

The scheme which started in 1963 for the notification of congenital abnormalities observable at birth continued during the year. The number of children notified during 1969 and details of the malformations are shown below :—

<i>Year</i>		<i>No. of children notified with defects</i>			
1964	.. ..	108			
1965	.. ..	125			
1966	.. ..	74			
1967	.. ..	87			
1968	.. ..	115			
1969	.. ..	126			
<i>Type of Malformation</i>					
Central Nervous System	.. ..	32			
Eye, Ear	.. ..	3			
Alimentary System	.. ..	9			
Heart and great vessels	.. ..	12			
Respiratory System	.. ..	—			
Uro-genital system	.. ..	20			
Limbs	.. ..	45			
Other skeletal	.. ..	3			
Other systems	.. ..	16			
Other malformations	.. ..	3			
		143			

### CONSULTANT CLINICS

Ophthalmic and orthopaedic sessions for school children are held in clinic premises and pre-school children who are referred from child health clinics attend by arrangement. The numbers of children attending are shown below :—

	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965
<i>Ophthalmic—</i>					
No. of pre-school children examined ..	1,648	1,672	1,493	1,838	1,250
No. of spectacles prescribed.. ..	197	239	252	231	229
<i>Orthopaedic—</i>					
No. of new cases who attended .. ..	912	963	908	856	788
No. of old cases who attended .. ..	1,105	1,131	1,110	988	1,031



Speech therapy is also given to pre-school children where necessary, by arrangement with the School Health Service. During the year 67 pre-school children were treated compared with 82 in 1968.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

Welfare foods were on sale at distribution points and, in addition, a postal service was operated from the Food Store at Gosforth, for outlying districts.

There was a further decrease in the amount of National Dried Milk sold but the sale of vitamin supplements showed a welcome increase as can be seen below :—

Year	National Dried Milk	Cod Liver Oil	Vitamin A. & D. Tablets	Orange Juice
	Tins	Bottles	Packets	Bottles
1965	78,828	9,466	9,297	139,341
1966	60,943	9,441	8,861	155,087
1967	54,572	8,360	7,199	159,041
1968	42,051	7,459	7,052	147,425
1969	33,358	7,505	7,891	164,068

#### ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Ante-Natal sessions in the County were all carried out by general practitioners, many of whom see their patients in local authority clinics assisted by the local midwife and health visitor. Twenty health visitors and twenty midwives attended ante-natal clinics in general practitioners' surgeries.

Year	No. of Expectant Mothers attending	Total No. of Attendances
1965	7,265	36,973
1966	6,831	35,321
1967	6,628	33,231
1968	6,751	32,571
1969	6,477	32,299

The following numbers of post-natal examinations were also carried out.

Year	Number of Mothers Attending
1965	2,804
1966	3,112
1967	2,839
1968	2,773
1969	2,937



Classes in ante-natal physiotherapy were held in 22 clinics. One full time physiotherapist and six working part-time attended 962 sessions, where 1,330 women attended with a total of 7,332 attendances.

### FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS

There are now 17 Family Planning Clinics in the County, run by my department. During 1969 new clinics were started at Wooler and Newbiggin Hall Estate and are already very busy. The clinic at Rothbury ceased to operate from June, 1969. At all these clinics, the Family Planning Act, 1967 is fully implemented. Examination and advice are free in all cases and drugs and appliances are also free in medical cases or where the patient is in financial need.

The work at these clinics has again shown a great increase over the year and comparison of the figures for the last five years will indicate the need for this service in the community.

The Family Planning Association held sessions in three local authority clinics at Ashington, Blyth and Tweedmouth. The Council makes grants to the Association to cover the operation of these clinics and the work of the Associations clinics in Newcastle and Tynemouth in so far as it relates to county patients.

CLINIC	No. of Attendances					No. of Half Day Sessions				
	YEARS									
	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Acklington .. ..	—	18	44	69	57	—	9	12	11	9
Alnwick .. ..	132	130	131	189	197	29	25	25	26	25
Bedlington .. ..	—	—	67	238	388	—	—	14	23	26
Chapel House .. ..	—	—	126	199	194	—	—	24	26	22
Fordley .. ..	—	—	141	296	448	—	—	25	26	32
Gosforth .. ..	—	92	137	172	220	—	22	24	24	26
Hexham .. ..	568	520	409	434	461	50	52	50	47	51
Longbenton .. ..	—	82	132	152	314	—	22	23	25	27
Monkseaton .. ..	417	286	451	636	1,027	39	40	48	44	75
Morpeth .. ..	—	—	5	86	155	—	—	3	22	21
*Newbiggin Hall .. ..	—	—	—	—	57	—	—	—	—	13
†Rothbury .. ..	—	1	41	14	17	—	4	26	24	11
Seaton Sluice .. ..	—	—	—	105	160	—	—	—	21	25
Shiremoor .. ..	—	41	247	550	610	—	11	41	51	49
Wallsend .. ..	26	218	321	514	571	11	45	46	49	49
Widdrington .. ..	—	14	37	80	84	—	9	11	11	12
‡Wooler .. ..	—	—	—	—	87	—	—	—	—	16
TOTALS .. ..	1,143	1,402	2,289	3,734	5,047	129	239	372	430	489

\* Newbiggin Hall Clinic commenced to operate from May, 1969.

† Rothbury Clinic ceased to operate from June, 1969.

‡ Wooler Clinic commenced to operate from May, 1969.

## CERVICAL SMEARS

During the year general practitioners continued to use the local authority's clinics for taking cervical smears for the early detection of carcinoma of the cervix and the following numbers were carried out with the aid of the local authority staff.

CLINIC	No. of Smears Taken
Alnwick .. ..	94
Amble .. ..	229
Ashington .. ..	8
Guide Post .. ..	152
Bedlington Station	200
*Bedlington .. ..	197
*Blyth .. ..	363
Brunton Park .. ..	1
Chapel House .. ..	14
Cramlington .. ..	113
Fordley .. ..	27
Forest Hall .. ..	15
Gosforth .. ..	59
Haltwhistle .. ..	109
Hexham .. ..	54
Lemington .. ..	8
Longbenton .. ..	385
Monkseaton .. ..	157
Morpeth .. ..	317
Newbiggin-by-the Sea .. ..	211
Newbiggin Hall .. ..	45
Ponteland .. ..	177
Seghill .. ..	17
South Broomhill .. ..	46
Throckley .. ..	11
Tweedmouth .. ..	103
Wallsend .. ..	231
West Wylam .. ..	113
Willington Quay .. ..	50
Woodlands Park .. ..	132
Wooler .. ..	51
Wark .. ..	19
TOTAL .. ..	3,708

\*General Practitioner's Surgery

Smears were also taken by the medical staff of the department in the Family Planning clinics, and the figures are shewn in the following table :—

Clinic	Number of Smears Taken
Acklington .. ..	30
Alnwick .. ..	154
*Ashington .. ..	137
Bedlington Station ..	106
Chapel House .. ..	240
Fordley .. ..	257
Gosforth .. ..	214
Hexham .. ..	310
Longbenton .. ..	182
Monkseaton .. ..	689
Morpeth .. ..	60
†Newbiggin Hall Estate ..	94
‡Rothbury .. ..	16
Seaton Sluice .. ..	186
Shiremoor .. ..	228
Wallsend .. ..	638
Widdrington .. ..	46
§Wooler .. ..	37
TOTAL .. ..	3,624

\* Cervical Smear Sessions only

† Newbiggin Hall Clinic commenced to operate from May, 1969

‡ Rothbury Clinic ceased to operate from June, 1969

§ Wooler Clinic commenced to operate from June, 1969

The following results were obtained from cervical smears taken in County Council Clinics :—

<i>Grade I</i>	<i>Grade II</i>	<i>Grade III</i>	<i>Grade IV</i>	<i>Grade V</i>
14.2%	85.1%	0.5%	0.1%	0.1%

Grade III smears were repeated to ascertain more accurately the type of cells found. Seven patients showing Grade IV and Grade V smears were referred to hospital for further investigation and treatment.



## DENTAL SERVICE

(Mr. A. E. ROBINSON, F.D.S., R.C.S.)

As in previous years dental inspection and treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five years of age was carried out by the School Dental Officers.

The majority of patients attended by appointment for treatment at the undermentioned clinics, the remainder being treated when the mobile dental units were operating in the more remote parts of the county :—

1.	Alnwick..	..	Miss S. M. Crute, B.D.S.
2.	Amble ..	..	Mr. C. A. Nutt, L.D.S.
3.	Ashington ..	..	Mr. R. S. Ferrell, L.D.S.
4.	Bedlington ..	..	Mr. G. W. R. Bryant, L.D.S.
5.	Blyth ..	..	Mr. E. G. Stuart, B.D.S.
6.	Cowpen ..	..	Mr. H. J. Coombes, L.D.S.
7.	Cramlington ..	..	Mr. T. M. Mahadervan, L.D.S.
8.	Fordley ..	..	Mr. W. Robson, L.D.S.
9.	Forest Hall ..	..	Mr. G. C. J. Long, B.D.S.
10.	Glendale ..	..	Mr. R. W. Whittingham, B.D.S.
11.	Gosforth ..	..	Mr. I. R. Atkinson, B.D.S.
12.	Guide Post ..	..	Mr. C. I. Cousins, B.D.S.
13.	Haltwhistle ..	..	Mr. I. W. Atchison, B.D.S.
14.	Hexham ..	..	Miss H. C. Gent, B.D.S.
15.	Longbenton ..	..	Mrs. P. Nicholson, L.D.S.
16.	Low Willington ..	..	Miss O. I. Wears, B.D.S.
17.	Morpeth ..	..	Mr. S. J. Smithson, L.D.S.
18.	Newbiggin-by-the-Sea..	..	Mr. C. L. Carmichael, B.D.S., D.P.D., D.D.P.H., R.C.S.
19.	Newbiggin Hall ..	..	Mrs. M. P. Furness, B.D.S.*
20.	Newburn ..	..	Mr. J. W. K. Lumley, L.D.S.
21.	North Tyne ..	..	Mr. T. A. Ireland, L.D.S.
22.	Ponteland ..	..	Mr. G. C. J. Long, B.D.S.
23.	Prudhoe..	..	Mrs. S. E. Williams, L.D.S.
24.	Rothbury ..	..	Mr. S. J. Smithson, L.D.S.
25.	Seaton Delaval..	..	Mr. A. E. Robinson, F.D.S., R.C.S.
26.	Shiremoor ..	..	Mrs. W. S. Drury, L.D.S.
27.	Throckley ..	..	Mr. J. D. Lamb, B.D.S.
28.	Tweedmouth ..	..	Mr. I. Stonehouse, B.D.S.
29.	Wallsend ..	..	Mr. J. F. Horseman, L.D.S.
30.	Whitley Bay ..	..	Mrs. W. S. Drury, L.D.S.
31.	Woodlands Park ..	..	Mr. W. Robson, L.D.S.

\* Part-time

There has been no great change in the overall picture of dental treatment provided for these patients in recent years, but during the year under review there was a slight fall in the number of patients who attended for treatment. This is made evident by the fact that only 593 sessions were devoted to treatment compared with 800 in the previous year.

The practice of referring pre-school children from birthday clinics for routine dental examination is working well in some areas, but in some it is less successful.

Of the 3,016 pre-school children examined 45.5% were found to require no treatment, a slight fall of 1% compared with the previous year.



The following tables show a comparison of dental treatment carried out during the last five years :—

## DENTAL TREATMENT

*Expectant and Nursing Mothers*

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Number treated	807	830	577	486	397
Extractions ..	1440	1271	792	960	601
Fillings .. ..	1553	1367	1263	1131	834
Dentures ..	461	399	311	265	214
General					
Anaesthetics ..	119	98	80	97	59

## DENTAL TREATMENT

*Pre-School Children*

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Number treated	1936	2187	1893	1714	1577
Extractions ..	2069	2127	2202	2265	1854
Fillings .. ..	1372	2010	2293	2296	1779
General					
Anaesthetics ..	628	637	678	649	553

## COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE

### 1. STAFFING

The establishment of Area Nursing Officers was increased to 4 during the year. The Area Nursing Officers whose duties can be defined as 'Middle Management' are each responsible for geographical areas with populations of approximately 125,000 involving between 70 and 87 full and part-time field staff.

At 31st December the staffing position was :—

	<i>In Post</i>	<i>Vacancies</i>
County Nursing Officer .. .. .	1	—
Area Nursing Officers .. .. .	4	—
Group Adviser/Health Visitors .. .. .	7	—
Health Visitors full-time .. .. .	96	5
Health Visitors part-time .. .. .	10 (6) *	—
District Nurses full time .. .. .	61	4
District Nurses part-time .. .. .	35 (14)	—
District Midwives full-time .. .. .	17	—
District Midwives part-time .. .. .	3 (1.5)	—
District Nurse-Midwives full-time .. .. .	49	—
District Nurse-Midwives part-time .. .. .	3 (1.25)	—
Health Visitor Assistants part-time .. .. .	30 (10)	—
Bath Attendants full-time .. .. .	2	—
Bath Attendants part-time .. .. .	8 (4.5)	—

\* the figures in brackets relate to whole-time equivalent.

Twelve health visitors resigned and ten were appointed including 8 newly qualified under the Council's Grant Aided Scheme. 9 students commenced training during the year. In the district nursing and midwifery service there were 15 resignations.

Whilst the majority of vacancies were filled within a reasonable period, this considerable turnover in staff made heavy demands, both on field staff in endeavouring to maintain high standards and continuity of care and on the nursing officers who of necessity spent an increased amount of time on the selection and appointment of staff.

In the district nursing service 10 additional part-time staff were appointed as relief for holiday and off-duty periods. Other new appointments included 2 State Enrolled nurses to work with groups of State Registered nurses, 3 part-time bath attendants and 2 part-time health visitor assistants.

### 2. FAMILY DOCTOR ATTACHMENT SCHEMES

13 attachment schemes, involving 10 health visitors and 13 district nurses, with 13 family doctor practices were initiated during 1969. By the end of the year 74 health visitors and 80 district nurses were participating in schemes involving 73 practices. The following table shows yearly progress since the first scheme was initiated in 1964.

	<i>Health Visitors</i>	<i>District Nurses</i>
1964	2	—
1965	18	11
1966	10	19
1967	16	18
1968	15	16
1969	13	16

There can be no doubt that this method of working ensures a more effective service and none of the staff involved would wish to return to the previous pattern. At the same time it must be accepted that, if the services are to be fully developed, additional staff, particularly State Enrolled Nurses, bath attendants and health visitor assistants will be required.

### 3.—STATISTICS

#### A. HEALTH VISITING.

	1966	1967	1968	1969
1. FIRST VISITS				
(a) 0 — 1 year .. ..	7732	7545	7195	7242
(b) 1 — 2 years .. ..	9298	7377	7113	6882
(c) 2 — 5 years .. ..	21560	23741	19451	17563
TOTAL .. .. .	<u>38590</u>	<u>38663</u>	<u>33759</u>	<u>31687</u>
2. (a) Persons aged 65 or over ..	7052	6927	4937	5444
(b) No. in 2 (a) visited at request of G.P. or hospital ..	1908	2698	2512	2965
3. (a) Mentally disordered persons.	501	561	441	402
(b) No. in 3 (a) visited at request of G.P. or hospital ..	173	297	250	214
4. (a) Persons discharged from hospital (other than mental hospitals) .. ..	419	619	594	564
(b) No. included in 4 (a) visited at request of G.P. or hospital .. .. .	199	279	389	323
5. Tuberculosis households ..	868	503	322	249
6. Households visited on account of other infectious diseases .. .. .	98	163	189	163

These statistics give little indication of the development which has taken place in the work of the health visitors. Since the initiation of family doctor attachment schemes, there has been a steady increase in visits to the following :—



patients suffering from illness, chronic sickness and the handicapped ; school children and adolescents ; the bereaved and others with stress, emotional or relationship problems.

A number of health visitors have held consulting sessions in doctors' surgeries and many patients of all age groups, now seek the advice and help of the health visitor at her clinic headquarters.

Supervision of the elderly is frequently shared by the family doctor, health visitor and district nurse and in many areas the routine visiting of these patients has been undertaken by voluntary workers under the guidance of the health visitor.

## B. DISTRICT NURSING

	<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Visits</i>	<i>Advisory Visits</i>	<i>Surgeries</i>	<i>Patients Treated</i>	<i>Total Treatments</i>
1966	11,164	282,587	11,944	2,016	1,974	12,716
1967	11,990	294,251	13,422	3,434	5,467	20,154
1968	14,304	318,665	14,939	4,813	10,002	29,276
1969	15,881	320,157	19,425	7,825	21,546	54,649

In addition to the nursing and advisory visits in this table, 6,430 follow-up visits to check on patients' progress and condition were paid on behalf of family doctors. The patients visited included those suffering from chronic illness, acute infectious conditions and the elderly. The number of sick children attended by district nurses is slowly increasing and 758 were visited during the year. 50.3% of all patients nursed were over 65 years of age.

## C. MIDWIFERY

	<i>Total live and stillbirths</i>	<i>Home Confinements</i>	<i>Number discharged on/before 48 hours</i>
1966	7,690	929	828
1967	7,545	707	997
1968	7,270	422	1,145
1969	7,137	253	1,193

The following table shows the number of home deliveries undertaken during the year by the staff concerned :—

<i>Number of Cases</i>	<i>Full Time Midwives</i>	<i>District Nurse-Midwives</i>
0	—	30
1—2	4	12
3—5	2	4
6—10	4	3
11—20	5	—
21—25	2	—

The continued fall in home confinements necessitated some staff adjustments. Two full-time midwives who left during the year were not replaced and the geographical areas covered by the remaining midwives were altered to cover the county needs. The number of home confinements and mothers and babies attended on discharge from hospital, gives but small indication of the

volume of work undertaken by county midwives. In addition to ante-natal work in clinics, family doctor surgeries and patients' homes, they have fulfilled an indispensable role in the field of ante-natal education and in the work of the family planning and cervical cytology clinics.

Progress with the scheme for county midwives to deliver their own booked cases in the General Practitioner Unit at Ashington Maternity Hospital has been slow and only 8 such cases were undertaken during the year. The scheme did not develop more rapidly because, firstly the number of mothers booked for 48 hour discharge was small and secondly the majority of the staff concerned are district nurse-midwives working in family doctor attachment schemes and other commitments such as treatment sessions in surgeries and pressure of general nursing work on the district precluded the possibility of their being present at the hospital for some of their booked cases.

#### 4. LIAISON WITH HOSPITALS

Apart from the arrangement mentioned in the last paragraph, there are no specific schemes for liaison with hospitals in the county. There has been however a great deal of direct contact between health visitors, district nurses and midwives, and medical nursing and medico-social work staff in the general, psychiatric and maternity hospitals in the region. This contact has been mainly by telephone though staff have been encouraged to visit the hospitals when this was desirable and the travelling distance was not too great.

Facilities for health visitors, nurses and midwives to undertake a variety of training programmes have been provided by a number of hospitals and the resulting direct contact between the staffs has been invaluable in promoting a greater understanding of each others work. Similarly the Nursing Officers have had increased contact with senior medical and nursing staff in hospitals on liaison and nurse education committees and this has proved most helpful in furthering mutual understanding and goodwill.

#### 5. ANCILLARY HELP

The rapid development which has taken place in district nursing and health visiting following the initiation of family doctor attachment schemes has demanded a continuing appraisal of the duties undertaken by staff at all levels. The employment of a larger number of ancillary workers within the service seems essential to ensure that staff can direct their energies to those areas requiring their specialist skill and knowledge.

The following is an outline of the help at present available :—



### CLERICAL ASSISTANCE

All clinics except a small number in rural areas have clerical help. The duties undertaken by centre clerks include :—distribution of welfare foods ; records ; sending out appointments ; reception and answering telephone enquiries. A number of staff working in family doctor attachment schemes are making full use of the clerical and secretarial facilities provided by the practice, including in some instances, the use of tape recorders and radio telephone.

### HEALTH VISITOR ASSISTANTS

The majority of health visitors have part-time help from State Registered or State Enrolled nurses whose duties include :—

Clinic work :      prophylaxis, refraction and cervical cytology sessions ; assistance at ante-natal and child health clinics and with hearing tests.

School work :    Hygiene surveys, attendance at medical examinations and prophylaxis sessions ; vision testing.

### SCREENING TECHNICIANS

Four part-time screening technicians are employed in the school health service for the purpose of carrying out routine screening of children for defects of vision and hearing.

### VOLUNTARY HELP

The majority of health visitors have voluntary helpers in their clinics and the duties undertaken include :—reception ; weighing of babies ; extraction and filing of records ; provision of tea and refreshments. All the pre-school play groups run in clinic premises are staffed by voluntary workers.

### BATH ATTENDANTS

The establishment of 6 bath attendants includes two full-time men working under the direction of the seven male nurses and eight women working on a part-time basis. Duties undertaken include bed-bathing of the elderly and infirm ; assisting patients into and out of the bath ; dressing and undressing patients.

## 6. STAFF TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

An interesting new development relating to induction programmes for newly appointed district nurses came into operation during the year. Facilities for this in-service training were made available by family doctors in a large group practice in Ashington. Two health visitors and three district nurses, including one enrolled nurse, are attached to this practice and the excellent surgery



accommodation includes a well equipped nurses' treatment room. The induction programme includes training in district nursing and treatment room techniques as well as insight into the work of the whole practice team. All newly appointed staff, who have received this initial training, have found it helpful and the scheme has been welcomed by the doctors to whose practices the nurses were subsequently attached.

St. George's Hospital, Morpeth provided for a five day course of clinical teaching in the psychiatric wards and departments followed by attendance at a series of 20 lectures given by the hospital consultant staff. 37 health visitors attended this course and 36 district nurses attended a study day arranged especially for them at the hospital. The programme included case demonstrations relating to conditions commonly met with in district nursing practice.

In addition 42 district nurses attended a 5 day refresher course at the Royal Victoria Infirmary which included clinical teaching by medical and nursing staff in the wards, departments and theatres of the hospital.

The Health Education Council held two seminars on 'Middle Age Without Tears' and these were attended by 70 district nurses on the department's staff and 28 from neighbouring authorities.

In addition to conferences and area meetings, groups of staff attended study days at Hexham General Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital, Stannington. Training sessions on screening methods in the detection of deafness for newly appointed health visitors and health visitor assistants were conducted by Mr. R. G. Chaytor ; 3 midwives undertook training with the Family Planning Association in the teaching of contraceptive techniques ; a number of district nurses attended the Newcastle General Hospital for instruction in the technique of venepuncture and others received instruction in taking electrocardiograph tracings at Ashington Hospital.

We are indebted to all the medical and nursing staff who contributed to these programmes of staff training and development.

## 7. HEALTH EDUCATION

In addition to the health education work carried out with individuals and groups in the homes, child health and ante-natal clinics, 122 lectures or talks were given by health visitors to various clubs and organisations. Mothers' Clubs have continued to be popular and have provided an excellent milieu for all aspects of health education. The series of B.B.C. films 'The Springs of Learning' have proved invaluable teaching aids and have been in great demand by the clubs. In the School Health Service 1,514 pupils attended parentcraft courses and in addition to these health visitors gave 175 talks in schools on a wide variety of health topics.

### DAY NURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS

Requests for registrations under the Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948 increased again during the year. The new requirements which came into operation in November, 1968 mean that people formerly exempt from the need to apply to register as child minders, must now do so. There is also a continuing demand for play groups which must now be registered as part-time day nurseries. These two factors account for the great increase in the number of registrations. The position at the end of the year is shown in the following figures :—

	<i>Day Nurseries</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Daily Minders</i>	<i>Children</i>
1965	9	209	40	438
1966	18	368	44	376
1967	22	429	47	362
1968	37	757	52	460
1969	55	1142	71	456

Play groups are also held in 24 clinics under the supervision of health visitors assisted by voluntary workers.

A nursery nurse is employed for five sessions weekly to run play groups in areas where the need cannot be met by voluntary workers.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The programme of vaccination and immunisation procedures was unchanged during the year, as follows :—

Age	Protection
4 months	Triple antigen and oral poliomyelitis
6 months	do. do.
12 months	do. do.
During second year	Measles and Smallpox vaccination
4 — 5 years	Diphtheria, Tetanus and oral poliomyelitis
10 — 12 years	B.C.G. vaccination
On leaving school	Tetanus and oral poliomyelitis

TRIPLE ANTIGEN IMMUNISATION

Three injections during the first year give protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. The figures on page 91 show the rise forecast in last year's report following the changed schedule of dates. The protection of babies born in 1968 is shown by the large total of 4,529.

POLIOMYELITIS

Protection is provided by eating a lump of sugar on which has been dropped the vaccine or by directly giving a drop into baby's mouth. The figures again showed an improvement over last year.

SMALLPOX

The total number of babies and children (not adults) vaccinated in each area, together with comparable figures for 1968 is shown in the following table :—

SUB-COMMITTEE  AREA	Age at date of Vaccination															
	Number Vaccinated during 1969								Number Re-Vaccinated during 1969							
	0 - 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	1 year	2 - 4 years	5 - 15 years	TOTAL	0- 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	1 year	2 - 4 years	5 - 15 years	TOTAL
North No. 1	4	2	3	3	170	31	7	220							1	1
North No. 2	20	9	1	26	170	41	15	282				1		3	18	22
Central ...	3	3	3	2	88	47	18	164						1	24	25
East... ..	—	1	—	—	70	112	37	220						1	24	25
South ...	6	5	3	3	400	189	46	652						10	33	43
South East...	5	25	8	3	110	252	72	475						4	33	27
West ...	3	4	3	2	77	43	7	139						2	21	23
Wallsend ...	—	2	1	1	217	42	213	476					1	—	250	251
Totals	41	51	22	40	1302	757	415	2628				1	1	21	394	417
1968 totals or comparison	50	61	20	73	1839	895	209	3147					4	43	169	216



## MEASLES

Supplies of vaccine provided by the Department of Health were again curtailed drastically owing to the withdrawal, for safety reasons, of one complete supply.

As a result, the figures shown below are very much reduced from last year but the total children protected of nearly 12,000 since 1968 is encouraging.

SUB-COMMITTEE AREA	CHILDREN BORN IN YEARS :						
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962/65	Others Under 16 Years	TOTAL
North No. 1 ..	1	38	69	72	79	68	327
North No. 2 ..	1	71	68	50	83	26	299
Central ..	—	25	122	89	169	14	419
East ..	—	100	98	57	42	90	387
South ..	—	102	224	148	269	19	762
South East ..	5	59	151	115	90	94	514
West ..	—	10	46	22	61	4	143
Wallsend ..	1	165	86	50	57	—	359
TOTALS ..	8	570	864	603	850	315	3210
1968 Totals for Comparison ..	50	986	1158	1155	4946	427	8722

Statistics issued by the Department of Health and Social Security for the year giving the percentage of children immunised in Northumberland and comparative figures for England and Wales are given in the following table :—

Local Health Authority	Percentages of Children Vaccinated by 31/12/69						Smallpox (Children under 2)
	Children born in 1967			Children born in 1968			
	Whooping Cough	Diph- theria	Polio- myelitis	Whooping Cough	Diph- theria	Polio- myelitis	
England and Wales ..	81	83	80	66	67	65	31
Northumberland ..	87	88	84	72	73	71	20

## AMBULANCE SERVICE

The work of the ambulance service has continued to increase. During the year, one additional driver attendant was employed at the Throckley Station to meet the demands in this area. A further four day-workers have been employed at Broomhill, Blyth, Morpeth and Seaton Delaval ambulance stations to give improved cover for staff holidays, sickness and training.

	1967	1968	1969
Journeys .. ..	55,320	55,928	55,449
Patients .. ..	226,654	236,270	244,631
Mileage .. ..	1,729,913	1,753,468	1,766,503
Miles per patient ratio .. ..	7.5	7.6	7.4

Again due to the improved deployment of vehicles an increased number of patients has been carried with a reduced number of vehicle journeys. The total mileage for the service has, however, increased by 13,035.

Orders were placed for the following new vehicles : 2 Bedford large ambulances, 2 Bedford Junior ambulances and 6 Commer Dual Purpose vehicles. The two large ambulances and the three Commer Dual Purpose vehicles have been delivered and it is expected that the remaining five vehicles will be delivered early in 1970. The large ambulances have been fitted with aspirators and carry light rescue equipment.

During the year two ex Civil Defence vehicles were purchased and have been put into service as major disaster vehicles having been equipped to the standards laid down by the Working Party Report on Ambulance Services. These vehicles were stationed at Morpeth and Throckley Stations. In addition, all first line vehicles have been issued with two first-aid satchels and each station has been supplied with portable aspirators.

A joint major accident vehicle was provided by the County Fire Service equipped with radios from the Fire, Police and Ambulance Services.

The service was called upon to attend a major rail disaster at 1.42 a.m. on Wednesday, 7th May, 1969, when a train left the lines at Morpeth Railway Station. Six people died and 103 were injured, many of them seriously. The service call-out scheme worked very well and a total of thirty-six ambulances was in attendance. I would like to pay tribute to the ambulance personnel and to the assistance given by the Newcastle upon Tyne and Tynemouth Ambulance Services. Staff at Ashington Hospital, Newcastle Royal Victoria Infirmary and Newcastle General Hospital, together with the Police and Fire Services, gave the ambulance service maximum support. The radio control link provided between the Newcastle

General Hospital and Ambulance Control proved to be invaluable during this incident.

During the year three members of the staff attended a six weeks' training course at the West Riding of Yorkshire Training School and sixteen attended a two weeks' course at the North East Ambulance Training School, which opened in Newcastle on the 10th March. One member of the staff attended an Ambulance Instructor's Course held at the Cheshire County Council Training School. Six members of the service have assisted with training at the North East Ambulance Training School.

Teams from Berwick, Throckley and Morpeth took part in the County Council 'knock-out' ambulance competition. The team from Berwick was successful and went forward to the Regional Competition. As they were also successful in this competition, they represented the Region in the National Final at Harrogate and were placed seventh.

In the National Safe Driving Competition, 105 driving awards were gained by personnel out of a total of 137, as follows :—

Star Bar to 20 Year Brooch..	..	2
15 Year Brooch (Red)	.. ..	1
Special Bar to 15 Year Brooch	..	5
15 Year Consecutive Brooch	..	1
Oak Leaf Bar .. ..	.. ..	21
10 Year Medal.. ..	.. ..	4
Bar to 5 Year Medal ..	.. ..	19
5 Year Medal .. ..	.. ..	7
Diplomas .. ..	.. ..	45



## PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Tuberculosis has continued to show the decline which commenced so dramatically after the war and particularly after 1956. Last year I stated that notifications were the lowest ever recorded and in 1969, the reduction was again shown from 108 to 76. Details of respiratory and other forms of tuberculosis are shown in Tables 9 and 10 on page 84.

Although the deaths from respiratory disease showed a rise from 6 to 14, these were entirely in persons aged over 45 — eleven men and three women. There was no death from any form of the disease under the age of 45. These adult deaths were probably precipitated by the long winter and the very cold spring in 1969.

### Chest Clinic Services

The Regional Hospital Board is responsible for the staffing of special chest clinics throughout the County. With the steadily falling number of notifications, attention is particularly focussed on the preventive aspects of the disease and the work carried out in this field by chest physicians and medical officers in the department is detailed below :—

A. CONTACT SCHEME (Circular 19/64)					
(i)	No. skin tested	..	..	..	560
(ii)	No. found positive	..	..	..	51
(iii)	No. found negative	..	..	..	497
(iv)	No. vaccinated	..	..	..	686
B. SCHOOL CHILDREN AND STUDENTS (Circular 19/64)					
(i)	No. skin tested	..	..	..	5,792
(ii)	No. found positive	..	..	..	180
(iii)	No. found negative	..	..	..	5,367
(iv)	No. vaccinated	..	..	..	5,337
TOTAL vaccinated with B.C.G. in 1969					6,023
TOTAL number of persons vaccinated since beginning					
of scheme					84,023

### Mass Miniature Radiography

I am indebted to Dr. J. R. Lauckner, Medical Adviser of the North Regional Mass X-ray Unit for the following details of the work carried out during the year.

The Unit visited numerous industrial firms and, in addition, provided sessions for the general public at 8 different locations. 9,192 chests were x-rayed and 101 were referred to the Chest Clinic for further investigation. Three new cases of tuberculosis were identified as well as three chest tumours and two persons with heart disease.

From April, a mobile unit was sited for two hours each week at Wideopen, Cramlington and Newburn. It was available for the general public and for family doctors wishing to have an opinion

without prior appointment. 914 persons were examined during the nine months and 37 of these were referred to the Chest Physician for further examination. Only two cases of tuberculosis required supervision.

### Prevention of Venereal Diseases

#### CONTACT TRACING

The total number of contacts sought within the area was 30, 8 of whom were males. 5 were identified by Contact Tracers and 24 by patients themselves. 28 people were involved (two patients named twice).

Out of 25 patients examined, the results were as follows :—

	<i>Female</i>		<i>Male</i>
Gonorrhoea ..	16	..	6
Non-venereal ..	2	..	1
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	18	..	7

one woman was responsible for two infections

attended elsewhere 1

failed to trace .. 2

As well as visits to contacts, health visitors paid 50 visits to other patients, mainly defaulters from treatment and 3 patients were escorted to the clinic in an effort to promote regular attendance.

#### ANTE-NATAL SEROLOGICAL TESTS

There were 2,939 serological specimens submitted from the department's clinics for examination during the year.

7 cases of maternal syphilis were treated prior to delivery, one baby was subsequently tested and found to be free from infection, one baby died and at the end of the year 5 babies had not been born.

### Chiropody Service

The Council's arrangements for the provision of a chiropody service remained unchanged during the year. The number of patients treated rose from 8,665 in the previous year to 9,173 in 1969, and treatments given increased from 36,383 to 37,640.

Voluntary Schemes continued to give valuable help and financial grants were made to 25 Voluntary Committees providing these services.

Full details of the numbers of patients treated and of the treatments given are set out in Table 12 on page 86.



## Health Education

It is extremely difficult to assess the ultimate success of a year's work in health education. However, if success can be measured by the persons who received formal health education, it can be said that within the County an increased number of people received instruction on one or more health topics.

As in previous years, the activities covered a wide range of topics, and it is encouraging to report a notable increase in the requests received from Mothers' Clubs and other organisations outside the scope of the County Council.

Although interest was shown in a variety of subjects, many requests were received for demonstrations on mouth to mouth resuscitation, largely due, I feel, to the use of a first class film ("Breath of Life"), an excellent practical demonstration by the County Ambulance Officer, or his deputy, plus audience participation. This would appear to be a first class combination, which can be geared to suit audiences of all ages.

The demand for health education lectures in the clinics and schools was met by the school medical officers, school dental officers and health visitors, and in the evenings, with the additional assistance of the district nursing staff, the County Health Inspector and the County Ambulance Officer.

At the beginning of the year, the 6 part film series "Springs of Learning" was purchased. These films, dealing with the development of a child from birth to five years, have proved very popular, and have been shown to school children, Mothers' Clubs, and parts of the series have been shown to organisers of play groups.

A Road and Home Safety Exhibition was held in the Gosforth Library. Organised visits were arranged by the schools in the area, and an essay and poster competition was organised to stimulate the interest of the children. It was estimated that during the 4 days 1,500 children and 600 adults attended.

A display and exhibition showing the services available within the County for the mentally and physically handicapped was staged as part of a large exhibition to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Disabled Persons Employment Act. A great deal of interest was shown by the public, and it is hoped to have similar exhibitions in the future.

The school programme mainly consisted of mothercraft classes, dental hygiene, sex education and human relationships, smoking and health, accident prevention and personal hygiene. The mothercraft classes were conducted in 79 schools by health visitors and as previously mentioned proved both worthwhile and successful.

Dental health education continued at an encouraging level, and extensive use was made of the 16mm. sound projection unit



and the well stocked film library. The most captive audiences can be found in the infant and junior schools, and every opportunity was taken to show suitable films and demonstrate correct teeth cleaning to the children. If a lesson can be learned at an early age it is hoped that this will lead to healthier teeth in later life. In addition to the formal health education, the dental officers have imparted information and advice during routine inspections and treatments. An excellent range of dental posters is always on display in the surgeries.

The sex education and human relationship talks have continued to play a large part in health education within the school. For girls, this starts at 10 years of age, when they are given a talk on menstruation, and at this time the opportunity is also taken to talk to the young girl about general hygiene, posture, eating habits, and resting. The talks given to the older children were supported on a number of occasions by 16 mm. sound films, and every encouragement was given to the students to discuss the films and put questions to the school medical officer present.

During the year a number of schools received a lecture on the hazards to health caused by cigarette smoking. In addition to the formal lectures and film shows, the school medical officer is always willing to discuss problems with the individual.

The clinic has been the focal point for a great deal of health education, and regular displays, posters and leaflets are maintained at all clinics.

The following table shows the use made of the 16 mm. sound equipment, and the total audience figure only represents a small proportion of the population within Northumberland who received formal health education.

GROUP	Year	No. of Screenings				Audience				TOTALS	
		Clinic	School	Mothers' Clubs	Others	Clinic	School	Mothers' Clubs	Others	Screenings	Audience
Ante-Natal ..	1968 1969	153 130	9 11	3 —	1 7	1,478 1,181	257 161	89 —	90 175	166 148	1,914 1,517
Mothercraft ..	1968 1969	61 27	45 26	1 —	— —	676 324	761 555	48 —	— —	107 53	1,485 879
Child Development ..	1968 1969	24 32	29 55	7 45	6 9	221 269	669 1,203	167 1,389	120 235	66 141	1,177 3,096
Smoking and Health..	1968 1969	— —	8 5	10 —	7 5	— —	246 198	272 —	223 95	25 10	741 293
Sex Education ..	1968 1969	— —	45 56	9 7	4 11	— —	1,864 3,082	187 258	212 401	58 74	2,263 3,741
Accident Prevention..	1968 1969	— —	26 21	13 10	19 38	— —	703 940	320 250	368 1,110	58 69	1,391 2,300
Hygiene ..	1968 1969	— —	11 4	9 5	4 2	— —	960 78	278 102	111 94	24 11	1,349 274
Women's Advisory ..	1968 1969	— —	— —	3 9	4 4	— —	— —	71 273	111 110	7 13	182 383
TOTALS ..	1968 1969	238 189	173 178	55 76	45 76	2,375 1,774	5,460 6,217	1,432 2,272	1,235 2,220	511 519	10,502 12,483

## HOME HELP SERVICE

This most important home service continued to provide reasonably adequate help for the old people of the County. The total families assisted was exactly the same as last year, namely, 4,764. The work was achieved by 1,066 women who have provided continuous and reliable service throughout the year. Details are given in Table 19 on page 94.

The service has extended over the years so that 90% of the work is for old people. This is of inestimable benefit in prolonging independence and relieving the old people's homes provided by the Health Committee.

The detailed organisation of the service continued in the hands of the Area Executive Medical Officers, their staff and four home help organisers.



## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

### WELFARE SERVICES

Mr. A. K. Huddlestone, Welfare Services Officer, and Mr. T. Pattie, Senior Mental Welfare Officer, took up their appointments in the second half of the year and other changes in the organisation of the section followed. A review of the area organisation was commenced and co-ordination of the work of specialist welfare officers was begun, bearing in mind the recommendations of the Seeborn Committee.

Details of the sections of the welfare service are given below :—

#### RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

(NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948)

A review of Residential Accommodation for the Elderly was presented to the Health Committee on 30th September and the projected demand for 1981 suggested an additional 751 beds in old people's homes would be required. The immediacy of this need is exemplified by the fact that although 333 people were admitted to County Homes during the year the waiting list for beds stood at approximately 330, a substantial increase over 1968. Primarily crisis situations have been dealt with with little delay but many old people living alone have a long period of waiting after their application for admission.

The present bed state is as follows :—

	HOME			ACCOMMODATION		
			Men		Women	Total
Bell View, Belford .. ..	..	..	2	..	26	28
Greenholme, Haltwhistle .. ..	..	..	17	..	5	22
Thomas Taylor Homes, Stannington			197	..	226	423
Nicholas Garrow Home, Hepscott..			9	..	23	32
Haining Croft, Hexham .. ..	..	..	12	..	11	23
Springfield, Morpeth .. ..	..	..	—	..	15	15
Priorsdale, Newcastle .. ..	..	..	16	..	—	16
Doxford Hall, Chathill .. ..	..	..	30	..	23	53
Tynedale, Wallsend .. ..	..	..	14	..	19	33
Ralph Allan Home, Warkworth ..	..	..	22	..	40	62
Cowpen House, Blyth .. ..	..	..	14	..	18	32
Northfield, Morpeth .. ..	..	..	10	..	—	10
Earsdon Grange, Whitley Bay ..	..	..	24	..	37	61
Merley Croft, Morpeth .. ..	..	..	16	..	16	32
Essendene, Ashington .. ..	..	..	27	..	35	62
Seton Hall, Tweedmouth .. ..	..	..	25	..	38	63
			<hr/> 435	..	<hr/> 532	<hr/> 967

#### OTHER RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

The upward trend in the provision of homes for the elderly in the private sector continues. Although only 329 places are now available in private homes as against 334 last year, the number of

beds provided by voluntary organisations has increased to 307 as against 276 last year. This is a result of the closure of the Free Church Home at Benton together with the opening of the new Methodist Home at Cramlington. It will be seen that these facilities which are extra to the local authority provision are an invaluable adjunct in the demand for beds for old people. Added to this the Health Services and Public Health Act of 1968 empowers payment of fees in appropriate cases and the Council has commenced such a scheme.

The Authority has continued to give grants to voluntary groups who provide special housing. These are :—

	<i>Residents</i>
Abbeyfield Newcastle upon Tyne Society Ltd. :	
Hawthorn Road, Gosforth .. .. .	10
Linden Road, Gosforth .. .. .	7
Abbeyfield Glendale Society Ltd... ..	6
Abbeyfield Hexham Society Ltd. .. ..	5
Avenue Friendship Club, Whitley Bay .. ..	8
Autumn Homes Ltd., Hexham .. .. .	6
British Legion Housing Association Ltd., Cramlington..	36
Catholic Women's League, Whitley Bay .. ..	7
Little Sisters of the Poor, St. Joseph's Home, Newcastle upon Tyne .. .. .	10
Royal Masonic Benevolent Institute, Cramlington ..	2
Whitley Bay and Monkseaton Housing Association Ltd.	80

Housing Authorities have continued to apply for grants for welfare facilities provided in special housing schemes for their old people. Details of the variety of projects completed by District Councils is shown below :—

<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Units of Accommodation</i>
Wallsend Borough .. .. .	40
Whitley Bay Borough .. .. .	34
Alnwick Urban District .. .. .	16
Amble Urban District .. .. .	15
Ashington Urban District .. .. .	70
Newburn Urban District .. .. .	22
Castle Ward Rural District.. .. .	14
Haltwhistle Rural District .. .. .	32
Hexham Rural District .. .. .	24
<i>Warning Light System</i>	
Glendale Rural District .. .. .	60
<i>Bell Warning System</i> .. .. .	
Wallsend Borough .. .. .	326
Bellingham Rural District .. .. .	5
<i>Special Housing for the Physically Handicapped</i>	
Bedlington Urban District .. .. .	14
Longbenton Urban District .. .. .	6
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Urban District .. ..	6
Seaton Valley Urban District .. .. .	8
Hexham Rural District .. .. .	2

The indications are that this sphere of welfare provision will rapidly develop over the coming years.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

As with all branches of the welfare services the trend towards community care is dependent on the support of voluntary workers in the field. In the care of the elderly this is particularly relevant, for in a County so varied in population density and terrain as is Northumberland the voluntary worker should be the person on the spot — bring a meal to the door, offer supportive visiting, or perhaps transport a house-bound person to a day centre. The brunt of this work is carried out by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service and Old People's Voluntary Welfare Committees and I would like to thank these organisations for their efforts and their kindness to the old people.

There has been a small increase in the Meals on Wheels service provided by voluntary organisations and assisted financially when required by the Council.

Comparable figures are as follows :

	1969	1968
Meals on Wheels schemes ..	33	27
Meals provided .. ..	78,554	71,301
Luncheon Club Centres ..	20	19
Meals provided .. ..	43,175	45,678
Total meals provided..	<u>121,729</u>	<u>116,979</u>

There is great scope for voluntary effort in this field and the Committee hope that much development will occur shortly.

## TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR THE HOMELESS

An advance in the provision of care for the homeless in the County was achieved with the adaptation of the Clinic Buildings at Thomas Taylor Homes so that complete families can be accommodated in the event of homelessness. Under the direction of a supervisor the new unit accepted its first family on 14th November, 1969, but at the end of the year had only been able to deal with 2 families because of the specialised nature of their difficulties. Consultation has taken place between the Supervisor and the social workers on these cases and where appropriate she may carry out follow up work after their rehousing. The Supervisor is responsible for all the homeless family accommodation at Thomas Taylor Homes, the total admissions to which during the year have been :—

<i>Families</i>	<i>Mothers</i>	<i>Fathers</i>	<i>Children</i>
27	27	1	60



## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

### STAFF

The service is supervised by a Senior Mental Welfare Officer and a qualified social worker was appointed to this post when the existing holder took over administrative duties on the restructuring of the welfare services section in August. This allowed for increased casework consultation, professional supervision, and in-service training particularly for newer members of staff.

The social work staff consisted of eleven mental welfare officers and a welfare assistant. Two officers possess the certificate in social work and five hold the certificate of recognition of experience awarded by the Council for Training in Social Work. The staff operate from six area offices and in addition to their work under the Mental Health Act, 1959, they also have social welfare duties under the National Assistance Act, 1948, particularly with regard to elderly persons applying for residential accommodation.

The training centres staff consisted of seven qualified supervisors, five qualified and eight unqualified assistant supervisors, two trainee assistants and five nursery assistants.

The staff of the two industrial units consisted of a manager, two assistant managers and a craft instructor who are qualified with, in addition, a senior craft instructor and eight instructors who are unqualified.

A policy of seconding suitable staff to attend full-time professional training courses has continued and during the year one mental welfare officer obtained the Certificate in Social Work. Two assistant supervisors completed courses for Teachers of the Mentally Handicapped and were awarded the Training Council's Diploma. Two assistant supervisors and a craft instructor commenced attendance at appropriate courses. A week's refresher course for staff in junior training centres and adult units organised by the National Association for Mental Health was held at Twickenham and five members of the staff attended.

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT

There continued to be close co-operation between the mental health staff and the medical and social work staff of the psychiatric hospitals in the county during the year and this is reflected in the increasing number of attendances by mental welfare officers at out-patient clinics (some of which were held in county premises) and at case conferences.

An interesting experiment in group social work with ten chronic psychiatric patients was undertaken by a qualified mental welfare officer at St. George's Hospital at the request of the consultant psychiatrist concerned. Some definite patient benefit was observed and this stimulated the interest of some of the hospital

social work and nursing staff who are anxious to undertake group work after a period of instruction and supervision. Social group work, in conjunction with, or as a substitute for individual case-work has interesting possibilities and likely groups to be formed in the near future are of residents in old people's homes, mothers of subnormal children and of adult subnormals attending industrial units.

The arrangements made by Dr. D. Irwin, Physician Superintendent at St. George's Hospital, Morpeth, for regular monthly meetings between hospital medical and social work staff and local authority mental welfare officers continued. Case demonstrations by the consultant psychiatrists were still occasionally made as in previous years but the mental welfare officers participated much more actively in the programme and made individual case presentations or prepared talks on subjects of interest.

Some of the county's mental welfare officers joined officers from neighbouring local authorities at meetings held bi-monthly at Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital and arranged by the Physician Superintendent, Dr. I. A. Fraser, at which there were case presentations or clinical demonstrations.

Student nurses from various hospitals, students from the Applied Social Studies Course at Newcastle University and from the Certificate in Social Work course at Newcastle Polytechnic accompanied some mental welfare officers on visits of observation.

#### WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THE COMMUNITY

For the first time in ten years the visits undertaken by the mental health staff decreased. To a certain extent this was due to some staff changes during the year but it is also an indication that to deploy scarce social work resources it has been necessary to choose between universal or selective provision in favour of the latter thus ensuring that a more comprehensive casework service was provided to the clients in most need. The number of visits in the last five years is shown below and the graph on page 52 covers the ten year period :—

	<i>Visits to mentally ill</i>	<i>Total visits</i>
1965	3,986	9,915
1966	4,751	10,808
1967	4,948	11,274
1968	5,951	14,076
1969	5,596	13,132

The total number of mentally disordered persons receiving community care at the end of the year was 1,180, which shows a decrease of 47 on the figures for 1968. The new referrals during the year were made up of 645 mentally ill, 7 psychopaths and 54 who were mentally subnormal.

The statutory admissions to psychiatric hospitals by mental welfare officers totalled 236. Of these, 51 were admitted under



Section 26 and 185 under Sections 25 and 29 of the Mental Health Act, 1959. One hundred and nine remained as informal patients on the expiration of their period of observation. During the year, 1,416 persons were admitted informally into hospital.

There were 49 mentally subnormal patients admitted informally into hospitals and 12 under Sections of the Mental Health Act, 1959, and 2 under the Children and Young Persons Act.

Arrangements were made for 71 mentally subnormal children to be provided with short-term care in hospital either for assessment purposes or to allow the parents to have a break or a holiday.

The total number of mentally disordered persons under community care of the Local Health Authority is shown on page 96 and a summary of the work performed by the mental welfare officers is shown in Table 20.

### JUNIOR TRAINING CENTRES

Progress continued to be maintained in the training facilities for 246 subnormal and severely subnormal children in the following centres :—

						<i>No. of places provided</i>
Alnwick	Barndale House, Howling Lane, Alnwick					
	(residential)	..	..	..		31
Ashington	— South View, Ashington	..	..	..		36
	Special Care Unit	..	..	..		12
Bedlington	— 1 Beech Grove, Bedlington	..	..	..		35
Hexham	— Priory Buildings, Beaumont Street, Hexham	..	..	..		12
Prudhoe	— 54 West Road, Prudhoe	..	..	..		10
Tweedmouth	— Grove Gardens, Tweedmouth	..	..	..		30
Wallsend	— Elton Street Wallsend	..	..	..		60
Wallsend	— East End Park, Howdon (Special Care Unit)	..	..	..	..	20

The residential junior training centre at Alnwick is open from Mondays to Fridays during school term ; and continued to serve a very useful purpose and the 31 places were fully occupied during the year.

The policy continued of introducing new methods into the curriculum and on programmes of training leading towards social competence.

Mid-day meals have continued to be provided in the day training centres by the School Meals Service.

Medical and dental examinations were carried out by the school medical and dental staff.

The training centres provided practical work placements for students from Diploma Courses for teachers of the mentally handicapped and gave assistance also to student nurses and to students from universities, colleges of education, technical colleges, grammar and secondary schools for visits of observation.



The centres continued to receive generous support from various individuals and local organisations in the form of gifts which were greatly appreciated by both pupils and staff.

#### INDUSTRIAL UNITS

Blyth Industrial Unit, Kitty Brewster Trading Estate, Blyth.  
Addison Potter Industrial Unit, Clavering Street, Willington Quay.

Progress continued to be maintained in the units which provide places for 200 trainees working in a workshop atmosphere.

The type of work undertaken in the units varied from assembling and packing to the production of manufactured articles and also printing. At one of the units the trainees have also been responsible for grass cutting, on a contract basis, on sites of neighbouring factories.

Whilst the economic and industrial aspects of the units are important, it is also considered essential to provide a balanced programme of social training and education to help trainees to make the best possible adjustment to their life situation.

The majority of trainees are now able to use public transport to and from the units, although it is still necessary to provide transport in certain cases.

#### THERAPEUTIC SOCIAL CLUBS

Psychiatric social clubs at Ashington, Blyth, Whitley Bay and Wallsend continued to meet on one evening each week throughout the year. The clubs have been supervised by the mental health social workers, with considerable help and support from voluntary workers and members of the consultant and social work staff of St. George's Hospital, Morpeth. The average membership is 25 and the clubs have proved to be most beneficial to a number of patients who otherwise would have had no social activity or to those who have found difficulty in adjusting to a return to the community after a spell in hospital.

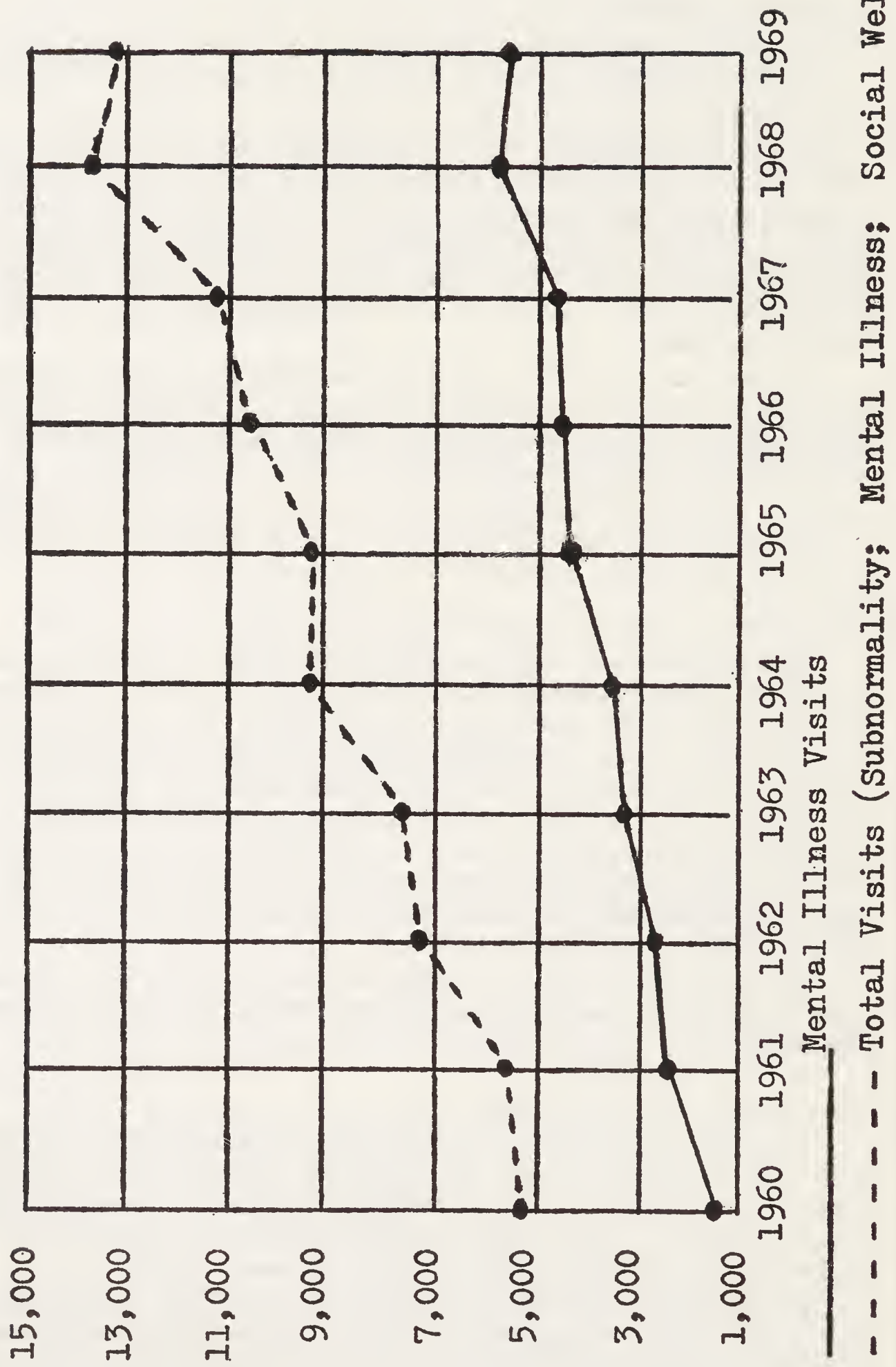
There is also a club providing social activities for mentally handicapped men and women under the leadership of the industrial unit staff.

#### VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The Gosforth and District Peter Pan Society and the Whitley Bay and District Society for Mentally Handicapped Children arrange a variety of activities for all age groups of mentally sub-normal persons in their areas. Both organisations have extensive programmes and their work is of the greatest value.

For the sixth year, the Northumberland Branch of the British Red Cross Society organised a week's holiday camp for 28 sub-normal boys and girls. This again proved successful and was greatly enjoyed by the children.

Visits





## SERVICES FOR THE HANDICAPPED

### (NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948)

The total number of persons registered under the Council's schemes for the welfare of handicapped persons was 2,618 in December, an increase of approximately ten per cent over the past five years. During the year there were 301 new registrations. The major increase was again in the generally handicapped group which has shown an increase each year since the register was opened in 1953.

Duties relating to the welfare of handicapped were carried out by a supervisor, a welfare officer for generally handicapped, a welfare officer for the blind (who was also responsible for generally handicapped and deaf), six other welfare officers for the blind, three welfare assistants and also in the extreme north of the County duties relating to generally handicapped were undertaken by a mental welfare officer. Four craft instructors and two part-time occupational therapists were also employed.

Periodic visits were paid to handicapped persons by the staff according to individual needs. Advice and help were given in many ways and frequently the family as a whole were involved when social problems were being considered.

A close liaison was maintained with other officers on the Council's staff, medical practitioners, consultants and hospital social workers and with the staff of the Departments of Health and Social Security and Employment and Productivity.

The staff also helped in the rehabilitation of some of the handicapped by encouraging them to attend craft classes and social centres, by demonstrating appliances and gadgets to help them to be independent, by encouraging relatives to allow the handicapped persons to try to help themselves and by advising and recommending structural alterations and adaptations.

Thirteen craft classes for physically handicapped and nine for blind and partially sighted persons were held in various centres in the County, while handicapped persons from Bedlington, Blyth and Whitley Bay met in a small day centre at Cowpen, Blyth. Domiciliary instruction was also provided for persons who were unable to attend a class. A variety of articles was produced and sold at exhibitions and sales of work. Exhibitions were held in the County Hall, Merley Croft, Morpeth, and the Department took part in an Exhibition organised by the Newcastle upon Tyne Disablement Advisory Committee to mark the 25th anniversary of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act. Many of the handicapped were able to find a market direct for articles they made.

The Department is grateful to the 23 voluntary committees for handicapped persons established in the County (including committees for the blind) for organising club meetings, outings and



other social activities and for their interest in the handicapped generally. These functions play a very important part in the rehabilitation of handicapped people. Many clubs were dependent upon members of the Rotary Clubs, Round Table and other voluntary organisations for transport and to members of St. John's Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society for attending upon the handicapped people and much credit is due to these organisations.

Thirty-six handicapped people spent eleven days holiday at a hostel at Thropton kindly loaned by the Association of Youth Clubs. A welfare officer and volunteers from St. John's Ambulance Brigade and other voluntary workers accompanied the party. The Council also assisted financially in a holiday arranged by the West Northumberland Voluntary Committee for 19 handicapped persons (including some blind) to Caister Bay Camp.

The following summary shows holiday arrangements or assistance given towards holidays :—

At holiday homes for blind persons .. .. .	17
Holidays for deaf blind persons arranged in conjunction with the North Regional Association for the Blind ..	3
Holidays to Thropton (at hostel of Association of Youth Clubs) for physically handicapped persons .. ..	36
Holidays to private guest house at Ulgham.. .. .	8
Holidays to Caister Bay .. .. .	19
Holidays to Merley Croft .. .. .	76
Holidays to Nicholas Garrow Home for the Blind.. ..	9
Children's holidays at Glanton (arranged in conjunction with British Red Cross Society) .. .. .	12
Privately arranged holidays .. .. .	32
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>212</b>

## Blind and Partially Sighted

### REGISTRATION

The age groups of the registered blind and partially sighted on the 31st December were :—

	BLIND			PARTIALLY SIGHTED		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Under 5 .. ..	2	2	4	1	2	3
5 — 15.. ..	10	4	14	14	6	20
16 — 20.. ..	6	4	10	10	6	16
21 — 49.. ..	67	39	106	32	10	42
50 — 64.. ..	71	62	133	24	19	43
65 — 69.. ..	32	34	66	4	15	19
70 — 79.. ..	82	128	210	15	42	57
80 — 84.. ..	33	65	98	8	23	31
Over 85 .. ..	29	90	119	4	22	26
	332	428	760	112	145	257

Ophthalmologists carried out 181 examinations and re-examinations under the Council's scheme during the year and 37 men and 48 women were newly registered as blind. These included five children and 64 persons over 60 years. Of the 46 newly registered partially sighted persons, two were children and 32 were over the age of 65 years.

### CAUSES OF BLINDNESS

The following table shows the causes of blindness and defective vision of persons registered during 1969 :—

	<i>Blind</i>	<i>Partially Sighted</i>
Senile cataract .. .. .	5	3
Cataract and secondary conditions ..	20	10
Diabetic conditions .. .. .	5	5
Glaucoma .. .. .	2	—
Glaucoma and secondary conditions ..	9	9
Senile macular degeneration .. .. .	3	3
Senile macular degeneration with second- ary conditions .. .. .	11	3
Detached retina and other retinal con- ditions .. .. .	5	3
Retinal pigmentosa .. .. .	1	—
Corneal scarring	2	—
Corneal ulcers		
Keratitis ..		
Optic atrophy with other conditions ..	10	3
Lens opacities .. .. .	—	1
Myopia and secondary conditions .. ..	5	2
Irido cyclitis .. .. .	1	—
Choroido degeneration		
Choroidal sclerosis .. .. .	—	4
Traumatic and cerebral haemorrhage ..	5	—
Cortical Ischaemia .. .. .	1	—
	—	—
TOTAL.. .. .	85	46
	—	—

### SOCIAL WELFARE

A summary of visits made by social welfare officers for the blind is shown on Table 22.

In addition to duties previously mentioned the staff taught Braille and Moon to suitable blind and partially sighted persons and arranged for them to become members of the National Library for the Blind or for books to be borrowed from the Tynemouth Library for the Blind.

Radios were issued on behalf of the British Wireless for the Blind Fund, certificates of blindness for free wireless licences were issued and arrangements were made for talking books to be supplied by the British Talking Book Service for the Blind.

Two blind men attended social rehabilitation courses at Oldbury Grange, Bridgenorth.

In addition to outings arranged by local voluntary committees, joint outings to Blagdon Hall through the courtesy of Viscount and Viscountess Ridley and to the Northumberland College of Education, Ponteland, were arranged in co-operation with voluntary committees.

The Royal National Institute for the Blind continued to make grants to the County Blind Persons Trust Fund from which grants were made to voluntary committees and to blind persons for special purposes.

## EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION

The following table shows the employment position of the registered blind at the end of the year.

Employed in Workshops for the Blind..	..	..	21
Engaged in open employment :			
Physiotherapists	..	..	2
Teacher ..	..	..	1
Clergymen	..	..	2
Solicitor, Barrister	..	..	2
Placement Officer	..	..	1
Typist and office worker	..	..	2
Telephone operators	..	..	9
Business proprietors and executives	..	..	5
Salesman	..	..	1
Labourers	..	..	5
Factory workers	..	..	3
Domestic worker	..	..	1
Miscellaneous	..	..	4
		—	38
			—
			59
			—

Five blind persons attended industrial rehabilitation centres at Torquay or Ceres, Fife.

## Generally Handicapped

### REGISTRATION

The age groups of the persons registered on 31st December were :—

	Men	Women	Total
Under 16 .. ..	17	14	31
16 — 29 .. ..	89	83	172
30 — 49 .. ..	202	167	369
50 — 64 .. ..	248	246	494
65 plus .. ..	111	125	236
TOTAL .. ..	667	635	1302

There were 161 persons newly registered during the year, the principal causes being hemiplegia or partial hemiplegia as a result of strokes, arthritis and rheumatic conditions and multiple sclerosis.



## SOCIAL WELFARE

A summary of visits paid is shown on Table 22.

The Council assisted or met the cost of adaptations and aids as follows :—

Provision of downstairs toilets .. .. .	3
Provision of ramps, handrails, etc. .. .	34
Provision of sites for garages .. .. .	15
Miscellaneous provisions.. .. .	16
Indoor extensions.. .. .	16
Provision of bath aids, raised toilet seats, etc... ..	69
Provision of special chairs, tables, walking aids, etc... ..	4

The County Architect's Department gave valuable assistance in advising, preparing plans and obtaining planning permission and in the case of council house tenants the local housing authorities were co-operative in carrying out the work and in the majority of cases in sharing the cost.

Some local housing authorities in the County decided to include the provision of special bungalows or flats for disabled persons in their housing programmes and during the year the Council agreed to give financial assistance to Seaton Valley Urban District, Hexham Rural District, Longbenton Urban District, Bedlingtonshire Urban District and Newbiggin by the Sea Urban District Councils for this purpose.

The Council's scheme for the issue of car badges to certain categories of handicapped persons, continued to operate. During the year 206 badges were issued including 58 new issues and 148 renewals.

The craft instructors and occupational therapists worked in co-operation with the social welfare staff who recommended suitable clients for either craft classes or domiciliary instruction. In addition to conducting craft classes, the craft teachers paid 2,024 visits for domiciliary instruction.

## EMPLOYMENT

The officers had periodic discussions with Disablement Rehabilitation Officers regarding training and employment for handicapped people and also maintained a contact with Remploy Ltd.

One woman was given sheltered employment at Dorincourt, Leatherhead, and two sighted disabled from the County area were employed in the Workshops for the Adult Blind, Newcastle.

## EPILEPTICS AND SPASTIC PERSONS

The number of epileptic persons registered has not changed appreciably during the past five years, the number varying between 61 and 63 at the end of each year.

The number referred each year has averaged four. There were 62 epileptic persons on the register in December 1969, three having been newly registered and in addition 25 children were known to the Department and eleven adults were in epileptic colonies.

Eight spastic persons were newly registered during the year and in total 98 persons were registered.

In December, 20 spastic persons were attending Percy Hedley Day Work Centre, and seven lived in the neighbouring Chipchase Hostel at Forest Hall.

## DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

The Northumberland and Durham Mission for the Deaf continued to act as the Council's agents for social welfare purposes except in the North and West where the social welfare officers for the blind carried out social welfare duties.

The Mission was also responsible for specialist services such as placement and interpretation over the whole County.

## EMPLOYMENT

Four men including two school leavers and four women were placed in employment during the year. A deaf woman was employed in the Workshops for the Adult Blind, Newcastle.

## SOCIAL WELFARE

Details of visits paid by the Mission staff are shown in Table 22.

Northumberland elderly deaf enjoyed holidays at Great Yarmouth and Bridlington, arranged by the Mission. The clubs at Blyth and Newcastle — continued to function but the club at Wallsend was discontinued as the people there preferred to attend the Newcastle Club.

## REGISTRATION

Age groups on the 31st December were :—

				Men		Women		Total
<i>Deaf with speech</i>								
Under 16	..	..		6	..	—	..	6
16 — 64..	..	..		52	..	48	..	100
65 plus	..	..		6	..	14	..	20
				<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
				64	..	62	..	126
				<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
<i>Deaf without speech</i>								
				Men		Women		Total
Under 16	..	..		7	..	19	..	26
16 — 64..	..	..		35	..	33	..	68
65 plus	..	..		4	..	5	..	9
				<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
				46	..	57	..	103

*Hard of Hearing*

Under 16	..	..	10	..	16	..	26
16 — 64..	..	..	19	..	15	..	34
65 plus ..	..	..	4	....	6	..	10
			<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
			33	..	37	..	70
			<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

**Special Homes****NICHOLAS GARROW HOME**

The Home provided permanent accommodation for 32 elderly blind and partially sighted persons and temporary stays for nine other old people.

The residents were encouraged to do simple crafts and again took part in a domino challenge competition with other clubs.

For some years members of the Morpeth Inner Wheel have visited the Home each week to write letters for the residents and this service is much appreciated.

**MERLEY CROFT**

Since the Home was opened in 1963, there has been a steady number of requests for places, especially for temporary periods.

The Home has accommodation for 32 physically handicapped persons but two beds are reserved for temporary admissions to give handicapped people living in their own homes a chance of a holiday which in many cases proves to be a form of rehabilitation. Temporary residents are also admitted to occupy beds when permanent residents are on holiday. Seventy-six temporary admissions were arranged during the year.

Craft instructors held three classes a week for residents at the Home.

Some of the residents attended clubs for the handicapped at Blyth, Ashington and Bedlington and were encouraged to attend periodic outings.



## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

### Housing

#### NEW HOUSES

After the record total of new houses built in the County in 1968 it would not have been surprising to find a slackening-off during the year under review, but, in fact, a new record has been set for any one year with 5,150 completions as compared with 5,031 for the preceding year. A breakdown of these figures shows rather less council-house building by county district authorities, 1,810 compared with 2,422 in 1968, but still higher than the average for the past few years. Private building with 1,869 houses was also above average and an increase of 81 over the previous year's figure. The greatest increase was in the activity of Newcastle Corporation in their over-spill area within the Newburn Urban District, where no less than 1,330 houses and flats were completed, the highest annual total yet recorded. Within the administrative county, Ashington U.D.C.'s over-spill into Newbiggin by the Sea U.D. continued with a further 69 houses. Details will be found in Table 24.

A recent Ministry estimate puts the proportion of houses now in occupation built since 1945 at 37% for England and Wales and 40% for Scotland. The comparable figure for Northumberland would seem to be rather more than 42%.

#### SLUM CLEARANCE

The number of houses put out of use during the year was almost the same as in 1968 : 1,018 compared with 1,050 which then represented the highest recorded since the war. (See Table 25). In Circular 92/69 the Ministry of Housing and Local Government asked for a re-appraisal by local authorities throughout the country of the slum clearance problem remaining and their proposals for the ensuing four years. An analysis of the returns for Northumberland shows 5,525 unfit dwellings for demolition or closure by the end of 1973, an increase of about 1,000 over the last available estimate. By that time all but 12 county districts should have solved their unfit house problem. If the rate of clearance achieved over the past 2 years can be kept up, this prediction seems fairly realistic. After 1973, however, there will be some 1,500 unfit houses expected still to be in occupation in the 12 areas referred to.

#### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

These fall into two categories — discretionary grants for reconditioning of properties sound in fabric but lacking modern amenities, and standard grants, available to owners as of right for the provision of certain basic services.

By virtue of the 1969 Housing Act certain changes have been made in the improvement grant procedure, the most important being the increase in the maximum grant from £400 to £1,000 per dwelling, and the possibility of claiming for incidental repairs which formerly had to be financed entirely by the owner as a condition of obtaining assistance for works of improvement. The hope that this might result in making discretionary grants more attractive to owners seems to have been borne out by an increase, the first for 6 years, in the number of cases approved in the County : 668 as compared with 502 in 1968. This increase was shared by both urban and rural districts. Details will be found in Table 26. There is also provision for exchequer assistance to local authorities for the modernisation of council houses and during the year 120 dwellings were so dealt with.

The number of standard grants approved, viz., 301, was about the usual annual figure and once again there was no instance of any resort to compulsory powers. It is too early yet to know how much use will be made of the general improvement area procedure of the 1969 Act — there has not been time for this to become effective. The results of the Government sample survey of 1968 seem to suggest that the major problem in this region of the country is now not so much the unfit houses but the number of substantially built dwellings requiring to be brought up to modern standards, so there is a large field for endeavour in improvement work.

### WATER SUPPLIES

There was no change in the arrangements for water supply during the year. The County is served by two statutory undertakings whose areas of supply are as follows :—

**NEWCASTLE AND GATESHEAD WATER COMPANY :** The Boroughs of Berwick, Blyth and Wallsend ; the Urban Districts of Alnwick, Amble, Gosforth, Hexham, Longbenton, Newburn, Prudhoe and Seaton Valley ; the Rural Districts of Alnwick, Belford, Bellingham, Castle Ward, Glendale, Haltwhistle, Hexham, Norham and Islandshires and Rothbury. (A small part of the extreme south of Hexham Rural District is, as a matter of convenience, included in the statutory area of the Durham County Water Board).

**TYNEMOUTH CORPORATION :** The Boroughs of Morpeth and Whitley Bay ; the Urban Districts of Ashington, Bedlingtonshire and Newbiggin ; the Rural District of Morpeth.

There are no major water supply schemes still to be carried out within the County. Only a few small isolated centres of population remain not served by statutory undertakers ; some of these are being dealt with by minor schemes now in progress but there will be a limit to how far this process may continue because of the high cost in relation to the number of properties served.

The bacteriological examination of water is undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory at the General Hospital, Newcastle



upon Tyne. Copies of the reports on water samples taken by authorities in the administrative county were received in the department and unsatisfactory results were investigated. 696 samples were taken during the year from public and private supplies as compared with 759 in 1968. 556 were satisfactory and 140 (or 20% of the total) unsatisfactory. The apparently large number of unsatisfactory samples is accounted for mainly by special investigations into individual private sources.

## FLUORIDATION

The scheme commenced in 1968 by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company on behalf of the County Council for adjustment of the fluoride level of the supply at their Whittle Dene and Throckley undertakings continued in operation during 1969. Considerable trouble was experienced in the first half of the year in maintaining a sufficiently high concentration of fluoride, but in July a change was made in the source of supply of the sodium silico-fluoride powder, after which the optimum level of 1 p.p.m. was being regularly achieved.

Only the south eastern part of the Company's area is fed from these two sources, a very rough estimate of the population involved being about 100,000. The further north one proceeds from the the Newcastle boundary, the greater is the dilution of the fluoridated supply by that from the Coquet Water Board, so that a further 30,000 estimated persons will be receiving only partially fluoridated water for the time being. It will be impossible to do anything further for these areas and for other parts of the county relying entirely on the Coquet supply, unless and until Tynemouth Corporation, which is a constituent member of the Board, reverses its decision not to accept fluoridation.

A further extension has, however, been possible in the south west of the County and from 21st April fluoridation was being carried out at the Water Company's Gunnerton plant supplying the South Tyne Valley to the south west of the County and a small part of Cumberland. The total County population involved is comparatively small, due to the retention of local sources of supply for most of Hexham and all of Haltwhistle townships : only an estimated 12,000 persons are receiving Gunnerton water undiluted. This installation, after an initial settling-in period, was by the end of the year giving reliable service.

During these early stages a constant check has been maintained on the fluoride level in the supplies, and in addition to occasional samples submitted to analysts, 205 samples have been tested by my department, using the Palin A-Z test. Apart from low readings during the early difficulties referred to above, the fluoride levels have been within the 10% variation allowed by the Department of Health, and no evidence of over-dosing has been found.



## RURAL WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE ACTS 1944 - 55

### Schemes Submitted for Approval

The following schemes were considered by the Health Committee for grant aid under the Acts :—

Belford Rural District ..	Sewerage scheme with sea outfall for Sea-houses .. .. .	£164,000
Hexham Rural District ..	Water supply scheme, Keenley .. .. .	£35,937
	Water main extensions, Wall and Hallington parishes .. .. .	£17,935
	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Ropehaugh and Dirt Pot. . . . .	£5,777
	(Amended scheme, original cost, £5,775)	
	Water main extension, East Land Ends, Haydon Bridge .. .. .	£4,720
	Water main extension, Great Swinburne Wheathill .. .. .	£6,268
Rothbury Rural District ..	Sewerage scheme, Snitter Village .. .. .	£8,350
	(Connecting to Thropton Village scheme previously approved)	

All these, with the exception of the scheme for Ropehaugh, were approved.

### Ministry Inquiries and Investigations

Local investigations into the following proposed schemes were held by Ministry of Housing and Local Government Inspectors :—

- (a) An investigation at Bedlington on 15th August into the Bedlingtonshire Urban District Council's scheme for sewerage, £440,000.
- (b) An investigation at Wooler on 16th September into the Glendale Rural District Council's scheme for the enlargement and improvement of the Wooler sewage treatment works, £250,000.
- (c) An investigation at Morpeth on 17th September into the Morpeth Rural District Council's scheme for sewerage and sewage treatment for Ellington and Lynemouth, £154,000.
- (d) An investigation at Rothbury on 12th December into the Rothbury Rural District Council's scheme for sewerage and sewage treatment for Thropton and Snitter, £40,400.

My department was represented on these occasions and evidence was given where appropriate in support of the schemes.

### Work in Progress

The following are details of work in progress during the year with some indication of the stage reached by 31st December :—

<i>District</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Morpeth Borough	Extension to sewage treatment works	80% completed
Newbiggin Urban	Woodhorn sewerage .. .. .	50% completed
Castle Ward Rural .. .. .	Sewerage and sewage treatment scheme for Matfen Village .. .. .	50% completed
Hexham Rural ..	Mid-Tyne sewerage scheme (cor-bridge/Stocksfield)	
	Sewers .. .. .	60% completed
	Sewage treatment works .. .. .	30% completed

### Schemes completed during the year

<i>District</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Month</i>
Longbenton Urban .. ..	West Wideopen sewer (jointly with Castle Ward Rural District) .. ..	August
Alnwick Rural ..	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Alnmouth and Lesbury .. ..	August
Bellingham Rural	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for East Woodburn .. ..	July
Haltwhistle Rural .. ..	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Henshaw and Bardon Mill .. ..	March
Hexham Rural ..	Water main extensions, Brunton Bank (Stage II) .. ..	July
	Water main extension, Settlingstones ..	March
Rothbury Rural	Reconditioning and extension of sewage disposal works, Rothbury .. ..	January

### CLEAN AIR ACTS 1956 — 1968

There has been a further increase in smoke control within the County during the year. The present position is as shown in the accompanying table.

<i>County District</i>	<i>No. of Areas</i>	<i>Acreage Controlled</i>	<i>Properties Controlled</i>
Wallsend Borough ..	4	979	3,632
Whitley Bay Borough ..	5	1,174	4,495
Longbenton Urban ..	2	539	751
(Killingworth New Town)			(Eventual 6,460)
Newburn Urban .. ..	10	695	5,692
			(Eventual 6,483)
Seaton Valley Urban ..	1	1,960	2,163
(Cramlington New Town)			
	22	5,887	16,733
			(Eventual 23,233)

This shows an increase of some 3,000 smoke-controlled properties over the 1968 figure. In addition, Ministry confirmation was received for three further areas which when operative will bring a further 5,000 properties under control. By the end of the year 42% of the properties in Newburn U.D. were smoke controlled, the figures for Whitley Bay and Wallsend being 34% and 23% respectively.

It is to be hoped that the present difficulties over the supply of solid smokeless fuel will prove to be only temporary and of short duration. Smoke control is needed in areas like South-East North-umberland.



## MILK AND DAIRIES

### Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963

### Milk (Special Designation) (Amendment) Regulations 1965

The Council as food and drugs authority has the duty of licensing and supervision of all dealers in designated milk and this work is carried out within the department, together with supervision of milk treatment plants, specified area enforcement, etc. Wallsend Borough and the Longbenton Urban District Council are separate authorities for this purpose.

The designations permitted under the Regulations are "Untreated", "Pasteurised", "Sterilised" and "Ultra Heat Treated."

### DEALERS' LICENCES

Changes in the number of licences in force are shown in the accompanying Table.

	At 1st January 1969	Additions during year	Deletions during year	At 31st December 1969
Licence to bottle Untreated Milk (Form B) .. .. .	17	—	1	16
Pasteuriser's Licence (Form C) ..	6	—	—	6
Steriliser's Licence (Form D) ..	2	—	—	2
Dealer's Licence for Untreated, Pasteurised, Sterilised Milk and Ultra Heat Treated Milk (Form F) .. .. .	335	41	14	412
Dealer's Licence for Sterilised Milk only (Form F) .. .. .	268	4	9	263
	678	45	24	699

Most of the alterations were accounted for by changes of ownership, but a number of applications were received from retail shops for licences to sell Ultra Heat Treated milk. By the end of the year over 40 premises were so licensed, though the total amount of milk involved was not thought to be great.

Milk sampling and the inspection of dealers' premises are carried out by the County Health Inspector and during the year 382 visits were paid to dealers other than licensed processors, as compared with 388 in the previous year. Only a few minor contraventions of the Regulations were noted and these were dealt with by informal action.

### PRODUCERS' LICENCES

These continued to be the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food through their county officers, to whom I am indebted for the figures quoted in this paragraph.



The numbers of farms in the county registered for milk production at the end of the year was 570 compared with 631 for the previous year.

All herds are now attested and licences are only necessary for those 128 producers who dispose of milk by retail or as "farm-bottled."

#### MILK SAMPLING — STATUTORY

The total number of samples taken during the year was 1,504 as compared with 1,465 in 1968. The number of keeping quality failures of Untreated milk, viz., 28, was still much too high, but at 18% of the total it was an improvement over the 24% recorded the previous year. Where on investigation no fault could be found with dealers' methods of storage and handling, the results were passed on to the Ministry of Agriculture's officers, to be followed up at the point of production.

Methylene Blue failures of Pasteurised milk were also less than in 1968, but due to spells of extremely warm weather, the number of void samples was the highest for many years, and would have been higher but for the suspension of sampling for a few days during extreme conditions. This is one shortcoming of the present Methylene Blue test procedure — sampling becomes a waste of effort just at the time when keeping quality complaints are most likely. The single Phosphatase test failure was investigated fully at the processing dairy : no obvious reason could be found and there has been no recurrence.

	Passed	Failed	Void	Total
Untreated Milk				
Methylene Blue Test .. ..	128	28	1	157
Pasteurised Milk				
Methylene Blue Test .. ..	609	24	18	651
Phosphatase Test .. ..	642	1	—	643
Sterilised Milk				
Turbidity Test .. ..	50	—	—	50
Ultra Heat Treated Milk				
Plate count .. ..	3	—	—	3
	1,432	53	19	1,504

#### MILK SAMPLING — BIOLOGICAL — BRUCELLA ABORTUS

Samples of milk taken by district councils' health departments for examination for brucella abortus during the year numbered 223 from 79 different herds, but the pattern of sampling over the County continued to be very uneven. Some districts submitted no samples at all, and for those herds sampled, the frequency varied from once annually to ten or more times. These totals were similar to those for 1968. In addition the County Health Inspector took 111 samples from the supplies of 52 dealers.

29 samples were reported as giving a positive or doubtful reaction to the Milk Ring Test, but 19 of these were not confirmed by culture. (This compares with 10 positive, 4 unconfirmed, the previous year). Of the 10 found to be infected, 2 were from herds already being dealt with. Three producers having only a small proportion of retail trade elected voluntarily to discontinue this entirely. The remainder made temporary arrangements to have their milk heat treated until the herd could be demonstrated to be free from infection. In four cases, the district medical officer of health found it appropriate to serve notice under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, for compulsory heat treatment of the supply. Unfortunately it must be recorded that in spite of this activity at least two cases of human brucellosis which came to light were associated with the consumption of raw milk.

The Ministry of Agriculture's "Accredited" scheme for brucella-free herds continued to make slow progress and the number of herds in the County on the register at the end of the year was 54, an increase of only 30 in the twelve months. The proportion of producer-retailers included in this total is disappointingly low, yet these are the farmers who must be encouraged into the scheme for public health reasons. It would be very desirable if legislation could be introduced making illegal the sale of raw milk from other than brucella-free herds, but this is as yet a long way from being practicable, at least in Northumberland.

## TUBERCULOSIS

Biological testing for tuberculosis is not now carried out as a routine in the county except for school milk supplies, hospital farms and very occasional samples from other producer-retailers. During the year 25 samples were tested, all being negative. No case of tuberculous milk has occurred in the county for over eleven years.

## PASTEURISING PLANTS

The number of licensed pasteurising plants in the County remains at 6, with daily throughputs varying from 1,200 to 13,000 gallons. All the plants are of modern design operating on the H.T.S.T. system, the total quantity of milk treated being about 28,000 gallons per day.

Pasteurised homogenised milk is processed at two of the dairies, one of which also pasteurises a limited quantity of Channel Islands milk.

The dairies concerned were regularly inspected by the County Health Inspector, 155 visits being made for the purpose and 205 samples of milk being taken at the plants. All of these satisfied the phosphatase test for efficiency of heat treatment. There was



one failure in respect of the methylene blue keeping quality test, for which there was no apparent reason : the sample concerned was of cartoned milk. 8 methylene blue samples were void because of high atmospheric temperature. The processing plants were maintained in good condition, and only minor matters required to be brought to the notice of dairy management. There was a further increase in the amount of farm milk brought in by bulk tanker collection.

Because of the inability of the local Public Health Laboratory to accept washed bottles for examination, no tests for efficiency of bottle washing plants were possible during the year. This is unfortunate.

### STERILISING PLANTS

Two plants were in operation for milk sterilising, one consisting of the conventional oven batch treatment, the other being an ultra-high temperature plant working in conjunction with a continuous in-bottle steriliser.

A new sterilising tower for the latter was commissioned in January, replacing a ten-year old installation which had become unreliable with age. An improvement in the standard of treatment was immediate, and no further complaints were recorded. 52 visits were paid to the dairies during the year and 51 samples taken direct from the plants all satisfied the turbidity test.

### SPECIFIED AREA

The Council as food and drugs authority are responsible for enforcement of the specified area scheme, which forbids the sale of milk otherwise than under one of the special designations, i.e. "Untreated", "Pasteurised", "Sterilised" or "Ultra Heat Treated." At no time have any serious contraventions occurred.

Exception is made as a last resort for the issue by the Ministry of a "consent" to a retailer to dispense with the requirements of the Order where there is no possibility either of the immediate grant of a producer-retailer licence or of an alternative supply of milk, and at the end of the year 3 such "consents" were in operation. The amount of milk represented by these was very small.

### Milk in Schools Scheme

There was little change to report in the arrangements for supply of school milk, the contracts placed in 1969 being for a 3-year period. With the closing down of small rural schools, the total number receiving Untreated milk again showed a reduction. This new total of 22 does, however, include 3 schools previously in receipt of Pasteurised milk : the economics of milk distribution



in areas of scattered population forced one firm to seek release from part of its contract and alternative arrangements had to be made with a local supplier in order to obtain milk at all. This is regrettable. Only one very isolated country school was without a supply of fresh milk and had to rely on re-constituted full-cream dried milk. The following table shows the position as at 31st December, 1969 :—

<i>Grade of Milk</i>		<i>No. of Schools</i>	<i>Percentage of Schools</i>	<i>Percentage of Pupils</i>
Pasteurised .. ..	275	92.3	97.70	
Untreated .. ..	22	7.4	2.29	
No Fresh Milk .. ..	1	.3	.01	
	298	100.0	100.00	

All sources of supply were subject to prior approval by the department and regular samples from all sources were taken for examination.

The following table shows the results obtained during 1969 :—

	Passed	Failed	Void	Total
<i>Untreated Milk</i>				
Methylene Blue Test ..	26	3	—	29
<i>Pasteurised Milk</i>				
Methylene Blue Test ..	156	10	8	174
Phosphatase Test .. ..	166	—	—	166

The number of keeping-quality failures represents a slight improvement over the preceding year. Particular attention was paid to schools receiving raw milk and here routine tests for both tuberculosis and brucellosis were also carried out. One case was thereby discovered of brucella infection. The situation of the school concerned was such that no alternative supply was practicable. Immediate action was, therefore, taken in conjunction with the District Medical Officer of Health to eliminate the infection from the herd concerned and this was successfully achieved. The supply, therefore, continues, but subject to intensive sampling. The proportion of children in the schools supplied availing themselves of the service on a selected day in October was 89.9%.

## ICE CREAM

### Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations 1959

There was a further increase in the number of ice cream samples taken during the year by district councils, 401 samples being submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for methylene blue

testing as compared with 485 the preceding year. The results continued to be satisfactory : 305 samples or 76 % of the total were classified as Grade I and 63, or 16 % as Grade II. The recognised standards suggest that taken over a period, 50 % should reach Grade I and 80 % Grades I and II combined. Only 10 samples representing 2 % of the total were reported as Grade IV or unsatisfactory. Ice lollies can be subjected to a similar test to that for drinking water and of 21 so examined all showed a satisfactory state of sterility. Nine districts submitted no samples during the year.

## **LIQUID EGG**

### **Liquid Egg Pasteurisation Regulations 1963**

There are no treatment plants in operation within the administrative county. 12 samples of treated liquid or frozen egg were taken during the year, and for the first time 4 failed to comply with the alpha-amylase test for efficiency of heat treatment. This was followed up by the Public Health Inspector of the district council concerned.

## **SCHOOL SWIMMING POOLS**

The Education Committee maintain 8 learner swimming pools at schools in the county. All are equipped with full water treatment plant, comprising diatomaceous earth filters and automatic dosing apparatus using liquid hypochlorite for sterilisation. Each pool is under the care of a full-time swimming instructor who is also responsible for the plant operation. Routine supervision continued to be carried out by the County Health Inspector, who during the year made 82 inspections checking the free residual chlorine and pH of the water and examining the pool log books. Instructors are advised to maintain break-point chlorine conditions. Out of 28 samples of water taken, 2 failed to reach the "highly satisfactory" standard for swimming pool water and the necessary re-adjustments of plant etc. were attended to. The number of unsatisfactory samples is not a true indication of the standard of maintenance ; samples were only taken when conditions suggested the need for further investigation. If a satisfactorily high residual chlorine is evident, there should be no significant bacterial activity in the water. The small open-air fill-and-empty pool at Bellingham Camp Secondary School continued to be satisfactorily maintained when in use during the summer months.



## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

(Mr. C. L. ARLIDGE)

During the year ended 31st December, 1969, the County Sampling Officers procured a total of 2,832 samples of articles of food and submitted them to examination for compliance with the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the Preservative Regulations and the Labelling of Food Order, 1953.

The articles may be summarised as follows :—

<i>Article</i>	<i>No. Taken</i>
Beer, Wines and Spirits .. .. .	25
Butter, Margarine, Lard, Cooking Fats, Cheese (including Processed Cheese) .. .. .	114
Drugs, Medicines and Household Medicaments.. ..	36
Fresh Fruit, Fresh Vegetables, Dried Fruit, Tinned Fruit and Vegetables .. .. .	104
Ice Cream .. .. .	21
Jams, Preserves, Honey and Jellies .. .. .	83
Milk and Cream .. .. .	1,630
Pickles, Sauces, Vinegar and Condiments .. ..	79
Sugar, Sugar Confectionery, Flour Confectionery, Chocolate, Chocolate Confectionery and Cereals ..	146
Tea, Coffee, Cocoa, Beverages, Minerals and Cordials..	148
Tinned Meats, Meat, Meat Products (including Sausages), Fish, Fish Products, Fish and Meat Pastes ..	321
Miscellaneous .. .. .	125
TOTAL .. .. .	2,832

### Samples Reported by the Public Analyst to be unsatisfactory

<i>Name of Article</i>	<i>Analyst's Report</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
Home Made Dairy Fudge .. ..	The description "Home Made" is not appropriate for a factory produced article of which only 33% of the fat content consisted of Butter.	Manufacturers agreed to discontinue the use of the expression "Home Made."
Gorgonzola Cheese	The Cheese Regulations require this type of Cheese to be labelled "Full Fat Hard Cheese."	Vendors have agreed to label this product when displayed for sale.
Pork Sausages ..	The presence of preservative was not declared.	Manufacturer and Vendor cautioned.
Steamed Beetroot..	Not labelled in accordance with the Labelling of Food Order 1953.	Label to be amended.
Malt Vinegar ..	Contained 1.3% Sodium Chloride which was not declared as required by the Labelling of Food Order, 1953.	All Sales suspended pending the provision of new labels.



Malt Vinegar ..	Contained 1.4% Sodium Chloride which was not declared as required by the Labelling of Food Order 1953.	Label to be amended.
Pork Sausage Meat (containing preservative)	The absence of preservative could be misleading to a consumer who relied upon its presence to increase the period of storage.	Vendors agreed that in future only sausage containing preservative would be manufactured.
Steak and Kidney Pie.	8.2% deficient in meat content.	Vendor cautioned.
Low Calorie Sugar	Incorrectly described as it is a compound of sugar and cyclamate .. .. .	Description to be amended to Sugar with Artificial Sweetener.
Pure Malt Vinegar	Salt, although not present, was listed in the ingredients.	Labels, to be amended.
Cake .. ..	Contained a small piece of cloth approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter.	Manufacturers cautioned.
Beef Sausages ..	The presence of preservative was declared but none found to be present. Such absence could be misleading to a customer who relied on the presence of the preservative to increase the effective period of storage.	Producer's attention drawn to importance of accurate information being given to consumer.
Low Calorie Sugar	The description is inappropriate for an article containing an artificial sweetener and does not therefore consist entirely of sugar.	Producer warned that present description is incorrect.
Mince Pies .. ..	11.0% deficient in meat content	Producer warned to amend description to Meat and Vegetable Pies.
Selected Potatoes ..	Contained 19% damaged potatoes.	Vendor fined £10 0s. 0d.

### Prosecutions

Berwick and District Dairies Ltd. pleaded guilty to selling cartons of milk deficient in fat. A sample, taken at a Supermarket supplied by the defendants was found to be 40% deficient in fat. It appeared that no attempt had been made to plunge the milk in order to ensure proper distribution of the cream. A fine of £5 0s. 0d. with £4 14s. 0d. costs was imposed.

A. H. Shy & Son, Butchers of Blyth, pleaded guilty to selling Pease Pudding not of the substance demanded by the purchaser. A customer complained that a partially consumed portion appeared to contain hairs. The Public Analyst reported that the 'hairs' consisted of jute and cotton fibres. When interviewed the defendants admitted that the Peas were cooked in the sack in which they were supplied. The Magistrates granted an absolute discharge on payment of the Analytical Fee of £4 14s. 0d.

The analysis of a sample of Pork Sausages showed that the sausages contained nearly 50% more preservative than was

permitted by the Preservatives in Food Regulations. The Butcher pleaded guilty and claimed that he had altered his recipe but had not calculated the amount of preservative he used. A fine of £15 0s. 0d. was imposed.

20 samples of Milk were found to be slightly deficient in fat and/or non-fatty solids. Check samples taken from the cows revealed that the deficiencies were due to natural causes and not to the abstraction of fat or the addition of water. The Producers were instructed to obtain advice as to the changes that should be made in the animals' diets.

I am glad to be able to report that the adulteration of milk by the addition of water is now something of a rarity. This desirable state of affairs is probably due to a number of factors including the analytical control exercised by the large dairies who process and bottle most of the milk and to the frequency of sampling carried out by the County Sampling Officers at all stages from production up to time of sale to the consumer.

During the past year a number of pictorial advertisements displayed on cartons and on the T.V. screen have been challenged as they were deemed to grossly misrepresent the products they were alleged to resemble. Investigations invariably revealed that little or no control was exercised over the artists who were employed to glamourise their firms products. These artists appeared to have conferred on themselves a licence to portray a product such as they might wish to find but which in fact was far removed from that which it purported to represent.

Representations made to the firms concerned, resulted in new illustrations being produced without the Department having to have recourse to the institution of legal proceedings.





TABLES  
of  
STATISTICS  
1969

TABLE 1

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND

## POPULATION YEAR 1969

## BOROUGHs :

Berwick-upon-Tweed	..	..	..	..	..	11,530	
Blyth	..	..	..	..	..	35,130	
Morpeth	..	..	..	..	..	14,620	
Wallsend	..	..	..	..	..	47,120	
Whitley Bay	..	..	..	..	..	38,040	
							<hr/> 146,440

## URBAN DISTRICTS :

Alnwick	..	..	..	..	..	7,900	
Amble	..	..	..	..	..	4,960	
Ashington	..	..	..	..	..	25,830	
Bedlingtonshire	..	..	..	..	..	30,040	
Gosforth	..	..	..	..	..	27,390	
Hexham	..	..	..	..	..	9,930	
Longbenton..	..	..	..	..	..	49,560	
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	..	..	..	..	..	10,130	
Newburn	..	..	..	..	..	37,600	
Prudhoe	..	..	..	..	..	10,930	
Seaton Valley	..	..	..	..	..	30,340	
							<hr/> 244,610

## RURAL DISTRICTS :

Alnwick	..	..	..	..	..	12,080	
Belford	..	..	..	..	..	5,120	
Bellingham	..	..	..	..	..	5,040	
Castle Ward..	..	..	..	..	..	37,000	
Glendale	..	..	..	..	..	6,420	
Haltwhistle	..	..	..	..	..	6,850	
Hexham	..	..	..	..	..	20,750	
Morpeth	..	..	..	..	..	17,050	
Norham and Islandshires	..	..	..	..	..	3,780	
Rothbury	..	..	..	..	..	5,160	
							<hr/> 119,250

TOTALS	..	..	..	..	..	510,300	<hr/>
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TABLE 2

POPULATION—DISTRIBUTION FOR PURPOSES OF  
AREA ADMINISTRATION

AREA			POPULATION
North No. 1	..	..	26,850
North No. 2	..	..	30,100
Central	..	..	67,630
East..	..	..	65,170
South	..	..	116,010
South-East..	..	..	117,940
West	..	..	39,480
Wallsend	..	..	47,120
TOTAL	..	..	510,300

TABLE 3.

VITAL AND MORTALITY STATISTICS.

YEAR.			Birth rate per 1,000 living.	General death rate per 1,000 living.	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births.	Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 living.	Death Rate from Cancer (excluding Leukaemia Aleukaemia) per 1,000 living.
1940	..	..	15.00	12.44	59.00	0.55	1.58
1941	..	..	15.07	12.84	74.00	0.51	1.61
1942	..	..	16.39	11.59	54.00	0.39	1.59
1943	..	..	17.61	12.50	56.00	0.51	1.72
1944	..	..	19.87	12.16	48.00	0.50	1.86
1945	..	..	17.58	12.24	50.00	0.47	1.84
1946	..	..	19.74	11.98	48.00	0.49	1.73
1947	..	..	20.66	12.14	43.00	0.44	1.77
1948	..	..	18.04	11.13	40.00	0.43	1.74
1949	..	..	17.52	11.92	36.00	0.37	1.82
1950	..	..	16.69	12.24	36.60	0.28	1.75
1951	..	..	16.46	12.58	32.49	0.24	1.82
1952	..	..	16.08	11.25	29.37	0.17	1.92
1953	..	..	16.90	11.78	28.46	0.16	1.89
1954	..	..	16.26	12.23	27.03	0.15	1.95
1955	..	..	16.34	12.06	26.75	0.15	1.92
1956	..	..	16.51	11.87	25.80	0.11	1.90
1957	..	..	16.68	11.49	23.51	0.06	1.87
1958	..	..	17.08	12.05	24.03	0.06	2.03
1959	..	..	17.23	11.56	23.58	0.04	1.90
1960	..	..	16.66	11.80	20.28	0.05	1.95
1961	..	..	16.75	11.97	19.75	0.06	1.93
1962	..	..	17.20	12.23	23.28	0.05	2.08
1963	..	..	17.13	12.52	20.79	0.05	1.99
1964	..	..	16.80	11.76	20.11	0.03	2.10
1965	..	..	16.13	12.38	16.05	0.03	2.15
1966	..	..	15.08	12.29	20.10	0.02	2.14
1967	..	..	14.76	11.63	17.61	0.02	1.99
1968	..	..	14.21	12.70	16.46	0.01	2.35
1969	..	..	13.81	12.40	15.61	0.03	2.34



TABLE 4.  
GENERAL STATISTICS.

	NUMBERS			RATES		
	Boro's and Urban Districts.	Rural Districts.	Total for County.	Boro's and Urban Districts.	Rural Districts.	Total for County.
Population .. ..	391,050	119,250	510,300			
Births (Live) .. ..	5,618	1,430	7,048	14.36	11.99	13.81
Legitimate .. ..	5,288	1,366	6,654	13.52	11.45	13.04
Illegitimate .. ..	330	64	394	0.84	0.54	0.77
				(per 1,000 population)		
Births (Still) .. ..	73	16	89	12.83	11.06	12.47
Legitimate .. ..	65	15	80	12.14	10.86	11.88
Illegitimate .. ..	8	1	9	23.67	15.38	22.34
				(per 1,000 Registered births)		
Births (Live and Still)	5,691	1,446	7,137	14.55	12.13	13.99
Legitimate .. ..	5,353	1,381	6,734	13.69	11.58	13.20
Illegitimate .. ..	338	65	403	0.86	0.55	0.79
				(per 1,000 population)		
Deaths (Total) .. ..	4,736	1,589	6,325	12.11	13.32	12.40
				(per 1,000 population)		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of Age	88	22	110	15.66	15.38	15.61
Legitimate .. ..	80	19	99	15.13	13.91	14.88
Illegitimate .. ..	8	3	11	24.24	46.87	27.92
				(per 1,000 live births)		
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of Age	62	20	82	11.04	13.99	11.63
Legitimate .. ..	58	17	75	10.97	12.45	11.27
Illegitimate .. ..	4	3	7	12.12	46.87	17.77
				(per 1,000 Live Births)		
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of Age	51	15	66	9.08	10.49	9.36
Legitimate .. ..	48	13	61	9.08	9.52	9.17
Illegitimate .. ..	3	2	5	9.09	31.25	12.69
				(per 1,000 Live Births)		
Maternal Deaths .. ..	2	1	3	0.35	0.69	0.42
				(per 1,000 births—Live and still)		

			Births	Deaths
Comparability Factors .. ..	..	..	1.01	1.03
(Administrative County)				
Rates per 1,000 Population after adjustment .. ..	..	..	13.94	12.77

TABLE 5.

## BIRTHS (LIVE AND STILL).

COUNTY DISTRICTS	LIVE.					STILL.					Total Births— Live and Still.
	Leg.		Illeg.		Total	Leg.		Illeg.		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		
Boroughs :											
Berwick .. ..	105	93	6	5	209	—	1	—	—	1	210
Blyth .. ..	227	266	24	19	536	3	4	2	1	10	546
Morpeth .. ..	99	82	7	5	193	—	2	—	1	3	196
Wallsend .. ..	346	351	36	18	751	8	7	—	—	15	766
Whitley Bay .. ..	219	214	12	16	461	—	3	—	1	4	465
Urban Districts :											
Alnwick .. ..	50	46	5	5	106	1	1	—	—	2	108
Amble.. ..	48	43	1	3	95	—	1	—	—	1	96
Ashington .. ..	207	188	6	14	415	1	2	—	—	3	418
Bedlingtonshire ..	195	153	15	11	374	3	4	—	1	8	382
Gosforth .. ..	174	165	11	10	360	3	1	1	—	5	365
Hexham .. ..	54	54	—	3	111	1	—	—	1	2	113
Longbenton .. ..	275	286	22	19	602	3	2	—	—	5	607
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	63	56	4	3	126	1	—	—	—	1	127
Newburn .. ..	306	279	12	16	613	2	3	—	—	5	618
Prudhoe .. ..	58	59	1	3	121	2	1	—	—	3	124
Seaton Valley.. ..	274	253	11	7	545	2	3	—	—	5	550
Rural Districts :											
Alnwick .. ..	80	82	2	6	170	—	1	—	1	2	172
Belford .. ..	29	26	2	1	58	1	1	—	—	2	60
Bellingham .. ..	28	34	2	1	65	—	1	—	—	1	66
Castle Ward .. ..	195	172	5	11	383	3	—	—	—	3	386
Glendale .. ..	15	29	2	—	46	—	—	—	—	—	46
Haltwhistle .. ..	42	36	1	1	80	—	—	—	—	—	80
Hexham .. ..	153	143	3	5	304	2	3	—	—	5	309
Morpeth .. ..	95	126	9	1	231	3	—	—	—	3	234
Norham and Islandshires .. ..	18	14	4	—	36	—	—	—	—	—	36
Rothbury .. ..	20	29	4	4	57	—	—	—	—	—	57
TOTALS ..	3375	3279	207	187	7048	39	41	3	6	89	7137

TABLE 6.

## INFANT DEATHS.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Live Births	FIRST YEAR		FIRST MONTH		FIRST WEEK	
		Infant Deaths under 1 year	Infant Mortal- ity Rate per 1000 live Births	Infant Deaths under 4 weeks of age	Death Rate per 1000 live Births	Infant Deaths under 1 week of age	Death Rate per 1000 live births
<i>Boroughs :</i>							
Berwick ..	209	3	14.35	2	9.57	2	9.57
Blyth ..	536	4	7.46	2	3.73	2	3.73
Morpeth ..	193	3	15.54	2	10.36	1	5.18
Wallsend ..	751	12	15.98	9	11.98	8	10.65
Whitley Bay ..	461	4	8.68	4	8.68	4	8.68
<i>Urban Districts :</i>							
Alnwick ..	106	1	9.43	—	—	—	—
Amble ..	95	2	21.05	2	21.05	2	21.05
Ashington ..	415	9	21.69	5	12.05	4	9.64
Bedlingtonshire	374	8	21.39	8	21.39	7	18.72
Gosforth ..	360	4	11.11	3	8.33	1	2.78
Hexham ..	111	6	54.05	4	36.04	4	36.04
Longbenton ..	602	4	6.64	4	6.64	2	3.32
Newbiggin-by- the-Sea ..	126	4	31.75	2	15.87	1	7.93
Newburn ..	613	12	19.58	8	13.05	6	9.79
Prudhoe ..	121	2	16.53	—	—	—	—
Seaton Valley..	545	10	18.35	7	12.84	7	12.84
<i>Rural Districts :</i>							
Alnwick ..	170	3	17.65	2	11.76	2	11.76
Belford ..	58	1	17.24	1	17.24	—	—
Bellingham ..	65	1	15.38	1	15.38	1	15.38
Castle Ward ..	383	5	13.05	5	13.05	4	10.44
Glendale ..	46	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haltwhistle ..	80	4	50.00	3	37.50	2	25.00
Hexham ..	304	3	9.87	3	9.87	3	9.87
Morpeth ..	231	5	21.65	5	21.65	3	12.99
Norham and Islandshires..	36	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rothbury ..	57	—	—	—	..	—	—
<b>TOTALS ..</b>	<b>7,048</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>15.61</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>11.63</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>9.36</b>



TABLE 7.

## CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS (Year 1969) ACCORDING TO DISEASE

	BOROUGHES AND URBAN DISTRICTS			RURAL DISTRICTS			TOTAL COUNTY		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases .. ..	—	3	3	1	1	2	1	4	5
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .. ..	8	3	11	3	—	3	11	3	14
Other Tuberculosis, incl. late effects .. ..	1	—	1	1	—	1	2	—	2
Meningococcal Infection .. ..	1	—	1	..	—	—	1	—	1
Measles .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	..	—
Syphilis and its Sequelae .. ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .. ..	4	2	6	—	2	2	4	4	8
Malignant Neoplasm—									
Buccal Cavity etc. .. ..	13	5	18	1	3	4	14	8	22
Oesophagus .. ..	10	16	26	8	3	11	18	19	37
Stomach .. ..	84	44	128	21	5	26	105	49	154
Intestine .. ..	64	80	144	25	22	47	89	102	191
Larynx .. ..	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	—	2
Lung, Bronchus .. ..	212	46	258	46	12	58	258	58	316
Breast .. ..	—	73	73	—	14	14	—	87	87
Uterus .. ..	—	34	34	—	6	6	—	40	40
Prostate .. ..	23	..	23	13	..	13	36	—	36
Leukaemia .. ..	14	7	21	4	3	7	18	10	28
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc. .. ..	124	113	237	31	31	62	155	144	299
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms .. ..	1	4	5	3	—	3	4	4	8
Diabetes Mellitus .. ..	14	19	33	3	11	14	17	30	47
Avitaminoses, etc. .. ..	1	1	2	—	1	1	1	2	3
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	4	10	14	—	4	4	4	14	18
Anaemias .. ..	3	7	10	3	4	7	6	11	17
Other Diseases of Blood, etc.	—	2	2	..	..	..	—	2	2
Mental Disorders .. ..	7	8	15	2	4	6	9	12	21
Meningitis .. ..	1	2	3	2	1	3	3	3	6
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc. .. ..	19	26	45	8	4	12	27	30	57
Active Rheumatic Fever .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	..	—	..	—
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease .. ..	16	35	51	8	11	19	24	46	70
Hypertensive Disease .. ..	33	45	78	10	10	20	43	55	98
Ischaemic Heart Disease .. ..	691	574	1265	241	196	437	932	770	1702

Table 7.—Classification of Deaths (Continued)

	BOROUGH AND URBAN DISTRICTS			RURAL DISTRICTS			TOTAL COUNTY		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Other Forms of Heart Disease	71	130	201	35	54	89	106	184	290
Cerebrovascular Disease ..	299	387	686	144	168	312	443	555	998
Other Diseases of Circulat- ory System.. ..	95	91	186	30	23	53	125	114	239
Influenza .. ..	21	20	41	3	8	11	24	28	52
Pneumonia .. ..	119	170	289	33	44	77	152	214	366
Bronchitis and Emphysema..	230	73	303	56	12	68	286	85	371
Asthma .. ..	3	3	6	..	3	3	3	6	9
Other Diseases of Respir- atory System .. ..	27	23	50	9	7	16	36	30	66
Peptic Ulcer .. ..	19	11	30	7	5	12	26	16	42
Appendicitis .. ..	1	—	1	..	—	..	1	—	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia .. ..	10	17	27	5	2	7	15	19	34
Cirrhosis of Liver .. ..	6	7	13	4	1	5	10	8	18
Other Diseases of Digestive System .. ..	22	26	48	3	13	16	25	39	64
Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	7	6	13	2	2	4	9	8	17
Hyperplasia of Prostate ..	14	—	14	6	—	6	20	—	20
Other Diseases, Genito- Ur- inary System .. ..	8	24	32	5	5	10	13	29	42
Other Complications of Preg- nancy Etc. .. ..	—	2	2	—	1	1	—	3	3
Diseases of Skin, Subcut- aneous Tissue .. ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System .. ..	2	12	14	3	7	10	5	19	24
Congenital Anomalies ..	15	13	28	4	7	11	19	20	39
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc. .. ..	13	12	25	3	1	4	16	13	29
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality .. ..	10	3	13	6	2	8	16	5	21
Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions .. ..	4	12	16	6	6	12	10	18	28
Motor Vehicle Accidents ..	30	9	39	12	9	21	42	18	60
All other Accidents .. ..	50	69	119	16	25	41	66	94	160
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries .. ..	12	10	22	1	3	4	13	13	26
All other External Causes ..	5	4	9	2	2	4	7	6	13
TOTALS .. ..	2442	2294	4736	831	758	1589	3273	3052	6325

TABLE 8.

DEATH RATES AND DEATHS FROM CANCER  
(excluding Leukaemia and Aleukaemia)

YEARS 1940 to 1969.

Year	Population	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Population
1940	411,400	648	1.58
1941	407,120	656	1.61
1942	398,300	635	1.59
1943	397,740	686	1.72
1944	390,320	725	1.86
1945	392,510	725	1.84
1946	412,080	712	1.73
1947	417,510	740	1.77
1948	431,850	750	1.74
1949	436,370	796	1.82
1950	438,310	768	1.75
1951	437,600	797	1.82
1952	438,300	843	1.92
1953	440,600	836	1.89
1954	445,900	871	1.95
1955	453,000	870	1.92
1956	459,800	874	1.90
1957	463,900	866	1.87
1958	470,300	954	2.03
1959	475,000	904	1.90
1960	482,480	944	1.95
1961	480,530	929	1.93
1962	487,170	1014	2.08
1963	491,200	977	1.99
1964	494,440	1039	2.10
1965	498,430	1072	2.15
1966	501,380	1073	2.14
1967	504,200	1004	1.99
1968	504,690	1185	2.35
1969	510,300	1192	2.34



TABLE 9  
**TUBERCULOSIS**  
STATISTICS—YEARS 1941 to 1969.

YEAR	NOTIFICATIONS			DEATHS			DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION		
	Respiratory	Other Forms	All Forms	Respiratory	Other Forms	All Forms	Respiratory	Other Forms	All Forms
1941	346	116	462	208	51	259	0.51	0.13	0.63
1942	298	116	414	156	36	192	0.39	0.09	0.48
1943	458	125	583	202	50	252	0.51	0.13	0.64
1944	506	134	640	195	43	238	0.50	0.11	0.61
1945	608	127	735	186	47	233	0.47	0.12	0.59
1946	454	116	570	200	42	242	0.49	0.10	0.59
1947	439	125	564	186	39	225	0.44	0.09	0.53
1948	442	137	579	187	32	219	0.43	0.07	0.50
1949	506	104	610	160	26	186	0.37	0.06	0.43
1950	519	116	635	124	26	150	0.28	0.06	0.34
1951	523	87	610	105	18	123	0.24	0.04	0.28
1952	519	91	610	77	15	92	0.17	0.04	0.21
1953	480	111	591	71	12	83	0.16	0.03	0.19
1954	556	101	657	66	7	73	0.15	0.01	0.16
1955	564	79	643	67	8	75	0.15	0.02	0.17
1956	399	68	467	50	5	55	0.11	0.01	0.12
1957	356	69	425	26	7	33	0.06	0.01	0.07
1958	340	57	397	28	4	32	0.06	0.01	0.07
1959	309	35	344	20	4	24	0.04	0.01	0.05
1960	330	37	367	25	1	26	0.05	0.002	0.05
1961	284	49	333	27	4	31	0.06	0.008	0.06
1962	246	34	280	23	3	26	0.05	0.006	0.06
1963	224	36	260	24	5	29	0.05	0.01	0.06
1964	181	21	202	16	3	19	0.03	0.006	0.04
1965	181	28	209	17	1	18	0.03	0.002	0.04
1966	131	20	131	13	2	15	0.02	0.001	0.03
1967	105	16	121	13	1	14	0.02	0.002	0.03
1968	84	24	108	6	5	11	0.01	0.01	0.02
1969	67	9	76	14	2	16	0.03	0.004	0.03

TABLE 10  
NOTIFICATIONS AND MORTALITY AT SPECIFIED AGE PERIODS  
DURING THE YEAR 1969.

AGE PERIODS				* NEW CASES						DEATHS					
				Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Respiratory			Non-Respiratory		
				M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
0—	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	..	..	..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	..	..	..	3	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	..	..	..	15	15	30	6	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—	..	..	..	16	5	21	—	1	1	4	1	5	—	—	—
65 and upwards..	..	..	..	7	3	10	2	—	2	7	2	9	2	—	2
TOTALS	..	..	..	41	26	67	8	1	9	11	3	14	2	—	2

\* Includes new cases coming to the knowledge of the County Medical Officer other than by formal notification.

TABLE 11.

**CARE AND AFTER-CARE.****WORK OF THE SOCIAL WORKER**

Home Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	578
Sanatorium Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	290
Seen at Chest Clinics	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	794
Details of help given :—								
After-Care Sub-Committees :	Extra nourishment	..	..					58
	Bedding and clothing		..					18
	Travelling expenses	..	..					15
	Other help	..	..	..				38
Department of Health and Social Security :	Extra nourishment	..	..					17
	Bedding and clothing		..					19
	Travelling expenses	..	..					11
	Allowances	..	..	..				33
	Other help	..	..	..				20
Resettlement :—								
To Disablement Resettlement Officer	..	..	..	..				43
To Government Training Centre or Industrial Rehabilitation Unit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Commenced work	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16

Help for cases was also obtained from other sources including Care Committees, Home Help, Housing, Probation & Children's Departments, National Society for Cancer Relief, Marie Curie Foundation, Chest and Heart Association, Dr. Barnardo's Homes, W.R.V.S., and from a number of other voluntary services and societies.

TABLE 12.

## CHIROPODY

SERVICE	Number of Patients Treated	NUMBER OF TREATMENTS										TOTAL
		DOMICILIARY					CLINICS					
		Expectant Mothers	Elderly		Handicapped		Expectant Mothers	Elderly		Handicapped		
			M	F	M	F		M	F			
										M	F	
County Chiropodists	5171	2	2634	8494	289	479	5	2062	7445	5	16	21431
County Welfare Homes	591	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2149
Voluntary Services	3411	—	769	2732	—	—	—	2217	8342	—	—	14060
Totals : 1969	9173	2	3403	11226	289	479	5	4279	15787	5	16	37640
Totals : 1968	8665	2	3286	11262	298	595	11	3792	15300	3	17	36383

Welfare  
Homes



TABLE 13

## Attendances at Ante-Natal Relaxation Clinics

CLINIC	ATTENDANCES		No. of Half-day Sessions
	First Visits	Re-Visits	
†*Acklington .. ..	3	6	3
§Alnwick .. ..	42	131	45
§Ashington .. ..	48	373	43
§Guide Post .. ..	39	177	45
§Bedlington .. ..	18	90	36
§Blyth .. ..	125	493	43
§Chapel House .. ..	47	196	42
§Cramlington .. ..	67	219	45
§*Forest Hall .. ..	16	73	13
§Gosforth .. ..	54	270	41
†Haltwhistle .. ..	56	153	24
§Hexham .. ..	66	288	47
§Longbenton .. ..	43	258	49
†Lynemouth .. ..	11	65	30
§Monkseaton .. ..	69	297	47
§Morpeth .. ..	56	375	49
§Newbiggin-by-the-Sea ..	29	105	38
§Newbiggin Hall .. ..	27	120	43
§Ponteland .. ..	45	229	46
††Prudhoe (West Wylam)	36	125	37
§Seaton Delaval .. ..	28	168	44
†South Broomhill .. ..	13	25	14
§Shiremoor .. ..	29	161	43
§Throckley .. ..	29	178	40
§Tweedmouth .. ..	55	200	49
†Wallsend .. ..	116	487	45
†*Widdrington .. ..	8	31	13
†Willington Quay .. ..	53	204	45
§Whitley Bay .. ..	54	328	43
§Woodlands Park .. ..	48	177	47
TOTAL .. ..	1,330	6,002	1,149

\* Acklington Clinic commenced 15/3/69

Forest Hall Clinic commenced 3/9/69

Widdrington Clinic commenced 29/3/69

† These clinics are held by Midwives

† These clinics are held by Health Visitors

§ These clinics are held by Physiotherapists

TABLE 14.

### Dental Services for Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Children under 5 years

PART A.—ATTENDANCES AND TREATMENT :

Number of Visits for Treatment During Year :

	Children 0—4 (incl.)	Expectant and Nursing Mothers
First Visit .. .. .	1,577	397
Subsequent Visits .. .. .	1,644	1,170
TOTAL VISITS	3,224	1,567
Number of Additional Courses of Treatment other than the First Course commen- ced during the year ..	190	37
Treatment provided during the year —		
Number of Fillings .. .. .	1,779	834
Teeth Filled .. .. .	1,633	738
Teeth Extracted .. .. .	1,854	601
General Anaesthetics given ..	553	59
Emergency Visits by Patients	109	23
Patients X-Rayed .. .. .	14	84
Patients Treated by Scaling and/or Removal of Stains from the teeth (Prophy- laxis) .. .. .	429	285
Teeth Otherwise Conserved ..	416	—
Teeth Root Filled .. .. .	—	7
Inlays .. .. .	—	4
Crowns .. .. .	—	10
Number of Courses of Treat- ment completed during the Year .. .. .	1,762	430

PART B.—PROSTHETICS :

Patients Supplied with Full Upper or Full Lower (First Time) ..	65
Patients Supplied with Other Dentures .. .. .	77
Number of Dentures Supplied ..	214

## PART C. ANAESTHETICS :

General Anaesthetics Admin-  
istered by Dental Officers .. .. Nil

## PART D. INSPECTIONS :

	Children 0 — 4 (incl.)	Expectant and Nursing Mothers
Number of Patients given First Inspections During year .. ..	A. 3,016	D. 419
Number of Patients in A and D above who required Treatment ..	B. 1,641	E. 401
Number of Patients in B and E above who were offered Treatment	C. 1,623	F. 401

## PART E. SESSIONS

*Number of Dental Officer Sessions (i.e. Equivalent  
Complete Half Days) Devoted to Maternity and  
Child Welfare Patients :*

For Treatment .. .. 593  
For Health Education .. .. 19



TABLE 15.  
MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING SERVICE  
MIDWIFERY

Year	Nurses and Midwives Employed	Private Midwives In County	Attended by Midwives	Attended by Private Midwives	Number of Patients Delivered in Hospitals and Other Institutions but Discharged and Attended by Midwives Before Tenth Day	Number of Patients Delivered in Hospitals and Other Institutions but Discharged and Attended by Private Midwives before Tenth Day
1965	126	8	1,144	109	5,435	14
1966	127	10	929	127	5,366	13
1967	126	3	707	69	5,746	4
1968	127	2	422	1	5,974	3
1969	127	1	253	1	6,293	—

GENERAL NURSING

Year	New Cases	Total Visits	Number of Children Under 5 Years	Number of Old Persons Over 65 Years	Advisory Visits to all patients
1965	10,782	272,389	457	5,152	N/A
1966	11,164	282,587	461	5,305	N/A
1967	11,990	294,251	543	6,148	N/A
1968	14,304	318,665	701	6,680	N/A
1969	15,881	320,157	758	7,989	19425

TABLE 16.

## VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The following table shows the distribution of children under 16 years of age immunised during 1969 in the districts covered by the Area Health Sub-Committees :—

Sub Committee Area.	DIPHTHERIA					WHOOPING COUGH					TETANUS					POLIOMYELITIS												
	Children Born in Years :—										Children Born in Years :—																	
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962-65	Others under 16 yrs.	Total	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962-65	Others under 16 yrs.	Total	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962-65	Others under 16 yrs.	Total							
North No. 1	10	116	21	8	5	—	160	10	115	21	8	5	—	159	10	116	21	8	5	5	165	9	104	24	8	6	4	155
North No. 2	12	243	12	6	8	—	281	12	242	12	6	9	8	280	12	243	12	6	9	8	290	6	178	14	5	5	—	208
Central	6	677	52	4	20	—	773	6	670	49	2	10	—	737	6	677	52	4	23	54	816	7	666	54	7	20	5	759
East	6	449	73	8	18	2	556	6	449	73	8	12	—	548	6	449	73	8	18	259	813	6	525	50	13	38	31	663
South	69	1105	70	15	29	23	1311	69	1100	70	15	17	—	1271	69	1105	70	15	30	41	1330	51	1101	78	14	32	6	1282
South East	161	1264	85	10	18	8	1546	161	1263	85	10	9	—	1528	189	1285	86	10	18	21	1609	136	1211	90	12	18	57	1524
West	2	256	16	1	1	—	276	2	254	16	1	—	—	273	2	256	16	1	1	24	300	2	244	17	2	1	—	266
Wallsend	8	419	55	6	156	1	645	8	418	54	6	8	—	494	8	419	55	6	153	2	643	7	419	58	7	172	3	666
TOTALS	274	4529	384	58	255	48	5548	274	4511	380	56	69	—	5290	302	4550	385	58	257	414	5966	224	4448	385	68	292	106	5523
1968 Totals	681	3507	173	87	390	284	5122	677	3479	166	82	120	11	4535	679	3509	174	88	407	884	5741	663	3683	182	126	425	88	5167

## Completed Primary Courses :

## Reinforcing Doses :

North No. 1	10	116	21	8	5	—	160	10	115	21	8	5	—	159	10	116	21	8	5	5	165	9	104	24	8	6	4	155
North No. 2	12	243	12	6	8	—	281	12	242	12	6	9	8	280	12	243	12	6	9	8	290	6	178	14	5	5	—	208
Central	6	677	52	4	20	—	773	6	670	49	2	10	—	737	6	677	52	4	23	54	816	7	666	54	7	20	5	759
East	6	449	73	8	18	—	556	6	449	73	8	12	—	548	6	449	73	8	18	259	813	6	525	50	13	38	31	663
South	69	1105	70	15	29	—	1311	69	1100	70	15	17	—	1271	69	1105	70	15	30	41	1330	51	1101	78	14	32	6	1282
South East	161	1264	85	10	18	—	1546	161	1263	85	10	9	—	1528	189	1285	86	10	18	21	1609	136	1211	90	12	18	57	1524
West	2	256	16	1	1	—	276	2	254	16	1	—	—	273	2	256	16	1	1	24	300	2	244	17	2	1	—	266
Wallsend	8	419	55	6	156	1	645	8	418	54	6	8	—	494	8	419	55	6	153	2	643	7	419	58	7	172	3	666
TOTALS	274	4529	384	58	255	48	5548	274	4511	380	56	69	414	5290	302	4550	385	58	257	414	5966	224	4448	385	68	292	106	5523
1968 Totals	681	3507	173	87	390	284	5122	677	3479	166	82	120	11	4535	679	3509	174	88	407	884	5741	663	3683	182	126	425	88	5167

North No. 1	10	116	21	8	5	—	160	10	115	21	8	5	—	159	10	116	21	8	5	5	165	9	104	24	8	6	4	155
North No. 2	12	243	12	6	8	—	281	12	242	12	6	9	8	280	12	243	12	6	9	8	290	6	178	14	5	5	—	208
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South	69	1105	70	15	29	—	1311	69	1100	70	15	17	—	1271	69	1105	70	15	30	41	1330	51	1101	78	14	32	6	1282
South East	161	1264	85	10	18	—	1546	161	1263	85	10	9	—	1528	189	1285	86	10	18	21	1609	136	1211	90	12	18	57	1524
West	2	256	16	1	1	—	276	2	254	16	1	—	—	273	2	256	16	1	1	24	300	2	244	17	2	1	—	266
Wallsend	8	419	55	6	156	1	645	8	418	54	6	8	—	494	8	419	55	6	153	2	643	7	419	58	7	172	3	666
TOTALS	274	4529	384	58	255	48	5548	274	4511	380	56	69	414	5290	302	4550	385	58	257	414	5966	224	4448	385	68	292	106	5523
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Central	6	677	52	4	20	—	773	6	670	49	2	10	—	737	6	677	52	4	23	54	816	7	666	54	7	20	5	759
East	6	449	73	8	18	—	556	6	449	73	8	12	—	548	6	449	73	8	18	259	813	6	525	50	13	38	31	663
South	69	1105	70	15	29	—	1311	69	1100	70	15	17	—	1271	69	1105	70	15	30	41	1330	51	1101	78	14	32	6	1282
South East	161	1264	85	10	18	—	1546	161	1263	85	10	9	—	1528	189	1285	86	10	18	21	1609	136	1211	90	12	18	57	1524
West	2	256	16	1	1	—	276	2	254	16	1	—	—	273	2	256	16	1	1	24	300	2	244	17	2	1	—	266
Wallsend	8	419	55	6	156	1	645	8	418	54	6	8	—	494	8	419	55	6	153	2	643	7	419	58	7	172	3	666
TOTALS	274	4529	384	58	255	48	5548	274	4511	380	56	69	414	5290	302	4550	385	58	257	414	5966	224	4448	385	68	292	106	5523
1968 Totals	681	3507	173	87	390	284	5122	677	3479	166	82	120	11	4535	679	3509	174	88	407	884	5741	663	3683	182	126	425	88	5167

North No. 1	10	116	21	8	5	—	160	10	115	21	8	5	—	159	10	116	21	8	5	5	165	9	104	24	8	6	4	155
North No. 2	12	243	12	6	8	—	281	12	242	12	6	9	8	280	12	243	12	6	9	8	290	6	178	14	5	5	—	208
Central	6	677	52	4	20	—	773	6	670	49	2	10	—	737	6	677	52	4	23	54	816	7	666	54	7	20	5	759
East	6	449	73	8	18	—	556	6	449	73	8	12	—	548	6	449	73	8	18	259	813	6	525	50	13	38	31	663
South	69	1105	70	15	29	—	1311	69	1100	70	15	17	—	1271	69	1105	70	15	30	41	1330	51	1101	78	14	32	6	1282
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West	2	256	16	1	1	—	276	2	254	16	1	—	—	273	2	256	16	1	1	24	300	2	244	17	2	1	—	266
Wallsend	8	419	55	6	156	1	645	8	418	54	6	8	—	494	8	419	55	6	153	2	643	7	419	58	7	172	3	666
TOTALS	274	4529	384	58	255	48	5548	274	4511	380	56	69	414	5290	302	4550	385	58	257	414	5966	224	4448	385	68	292	106	5523
1968 Totals	681	3507	173	87	390	284	5122	677	3479	166	82	120	11	4535	679	3509	174	88	407	884	5741	663	3683	182	126	425	88	5167

North No. 1	...	10	75	39	283	17	424	—	10	35	21	72	1	139	—	10	75	39	284	39	447	—	12	76	50	278	19	435
North No. 2	...	8	168	24	341	18	559	—	8	100	14	86	2	210	—	8	168	26	346	79	627	—	10	152	23	326	23	534
Central	...	3	641	67	950	14	1675	—	3	613	52	36	—	704	—	4	643	71	963	595	2276	—	3	648	69	953	684	2357
East	...	13	335	86	932	78	1444	—	12	328	81	98	10	529	—	13	335	86	945	420	1799	—	17	379	76	970	604	2046
South	...	47	940	280	2060	151	3478	—	32	886	218	345	11	1492	—	48	941	282	2064	255	3590	—	50	939	280	2103	919	4291
South East	...	9	898	167	1482	35	2591	—	9	664	139	248	4	1064	—	9	915	171	1487	85	2667	—	41	843	159	1486	43	2572
West	...	5	199	60	308	21	593	—	5	171	51	108	6	341	—	5	200	60	311	84	660	—	2	200	52	293	15	562
Wallsend	...	—	1	2	729	22	754	—	—	1	2	8	—	11	—	—	1	2	723	22	748	—	1	1	1	550	5	558
Totals	...	95	3257	725	7085	356	11518	—	79	2798	578	1001	34	4490	—	97	3278	737	7123	1579	12814	—	136	3238	710	6959	2312	13355
1968 Totals	...	176	3762	789	6262	1461	12450	—	146	3458	658	1185	69	5516	—	180	3749	802	6306	2512	13549	2	287	3636	760	5733	1451	11869

TABLE 17  
AMBULANCE SERVICE

## MILEAGE

SERVICE	North No. 1	North No. 2	Central	East	South East	South	Wallsend	West	TOTAL
Direct .. ..	94,707	78,912	287 057	193,208	209,219	401,222	103,093	—	1,367,418
British Red Cross Society .. ..	97,357	—	—	—	—	—	—	130,854	228 211
St. John Ambulance Brigade .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	63,993	63,993
Agents (including Bus Operators) .. ..	—	63,033	—	17,484	—	—	26,316	48	106,881
Total Ambulances ..	192,064	141,945	287,057	210,692	209,219	401,222	129,409	194,895	1,766,503
Ambulance Car Service .. ..	61,923	934	40,464	—	—	51,728	—	134,096	289,145
TOTAL SERVICE ..	253,987	142,879	327,521	210,692	209,219	452,950	129,409	328,991	2,055,648



TABLE 18.

## AMBULANCE SERVICE STATISTICS.

STATIONS	VEHICLES	JOURNEYS	PATIENTS	MILEAGE
Alnwick ..	3	1,767	6,164	78,912
Ashington ..	6	5,989	23,609	117,496
Bedlington ..	5	3,486	15,122	98,028
Berwick ..	3	1,895	7,465	94,707
Blyth ..	4	3,569	14,860	95,180
Broomhill ..	3	1,566	8,132	80,677
Morpeth ..	4	2,844	12,307	88,884
Prudhoe ..	1	552	3,265	19,158
Seaton Delaval ..	4	3,241	11,718	94,965
Throckley ..	5	5,167	27,952	170,488
Wallsend ..	4	5,781	20,941	103,093
Whitley Bay ..	4	4,553	16,714	114,254
Wideopen ..	7	6,608	34,700	211,576
<i>Agency Services</i>				
Smith's, Rothbury ..	2	1,046	3,930	63,033
British Red Cross Society ..	9	4,574	21,851	228,211
St. John Ambul- ance Brigade ..	1	1,830	7,670	63,993
Henderson, Alston ..	1	3	5	48
Private 'Bus Operators ..	2	978	8,226	43,800
	68	55,449	244,631	1,766,545
Car Operators ..	44	6,478	8,658	289,145

## DETAILS OF PERSONS CARRIED.

Year	Accident and Emergency Stretcher Cases	Accident and Emergency Other Cases	Treatment including Maternity Cases	Others	Total Patients Carried	Relatives Carried	Total No. of Persons Carried
964	5 972	5,563	193,735	5,409	210,679	64,164	274,843
965	6,090	5 530	191,870	7,396	210,886	60,561	271,447
966	6,000	5,264	199,397	7,938	218,599	57,776	276,375
967	6,022	5,678	206,121	8,833	226,654	57,137	283,791
968	6,361	5,610	215,130	9,169	236,270	56,653	292,923
969	6,441	5,867	222,163	10,160	244,631	58,021	302 652

**TABLE 19.**  
**HOME HELP SERVICE.**

Area.	Number of cases assisted.		Home Helps employed at 31st December.	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
North No. 1 .. ..	—	173	—	52
North No. 2 .. ..	—	255	—	73
East .. ..	—	785	—	132
Central .. ..	—	616	1	131
South .. ..	4	973	—	211
South-East .. ..	—	1,124	2	209
West .. ..	—	324	—	121
Wallsend.. ..	—	510	—	134
<b>TOTALS .. ..</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4,760</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,063</b>

**TYPES OF CASE ASSISTED.**

	Full-time	Part-Time	Total	Total for 1968
Confinement .. ..	4	53	57 ..	79
Acute Illness .. ..	—	276	276	310
Old Age and Chronic Illness .. ..	—	4,341	4,341	4,269
Blind .. ..	—	64	64	75
Tuberculosis .. ..	—	17	17	19
Mentally Disordered ..	—	6	6	8
Problem cases including children in absence of mother ..	—	3	3	4
<b>TOTALS .. ..</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4,760</b>	<b>4,764</b>	<b>4,764</b>

The number of Home Helps employed compared with last year was :

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
31st December, 1969 .. ..	3	1,063	1,066
31st December, 1968 .. ..	2	1,090	1,092

TABLE 20.

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

Number of mentally ill patients dealt with by Mental Welfare Officers under the Mental Health Act, 1959 :—

	Male	Female	Total
Admitted for Observation (Section 25) .. .. .	28	53	81
Admitted for Treatment (Section 26) .. .. .	28	23	51
Admitted for Observation in cases of Emergency (Section 29) .. .. .	43	61	104
	99	137	236

## SUMMARY OF VISITS MADE BY MENTAL WELFARE OFFICERS.

District.	Population (Estimated)	Subnormal and Severely Subnormal	Mental Illness	Social Welfare	Total
Alnwick .. .. .	37,150	243	451	262	956
Ashington .. .. .	120,960	642	1,187	894	2,723
Berwick .. .. .	26,850	211	588	181	980
Blyth .. .. .	73,170	639	878	1,564	3,081
Hexham .. .. .	53,500	199	250	339	788
South Northumberland	151,550	832	1,550	994	3,376
Wallsend .. .. .	47,120	263	692	273	1,228
	510,300	3,029	5,596	4,507	13,132



TABLE 21.  
NUMBER OF PERSONS UNDER LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY CARE AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1969.

	Mentally III				Elderly mentally infirm		Psychopathic				Subnormal				Severely Subnormal				Total	
	Under age 16		16 and over				Under age 16		16 and over		Under age 16		16 and over		Under age 16		16 and over			
	M.	F.	M.	F.																M.
(a) Total Number ...	—	—	150	162	9	25	—	—	—	4	—	5	8	49	88	148	98	223	211	1180
(b) Attending training centre or industrial units ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	46	37	107	95	74	67	431
(c) Awaiting entry to training centre or industrial units	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	9	5	4	5	26

TABLE 22.

# WELFARE OF BLIND AND OTHER HANDICAPPED PERSONS

## BLIND WELFARE

### REGISTER OF BLIND PERSONS.

Total — 31st December, 1968	..	..	..	768
Names added to register :—				
New cases	..	..	..	63
New cases transferred from register of				
Partially Sighted	..	..	..	22
Transfers In	..	..	..	14
				— 99
				867
Names removed from register :—				
Deaths	..	..	..	82
Decertified	..	..	..	3
Transfers out	..	..	..	22
				— 107
Total — 31st December, 1969	..			760

### REGISTER OF PARTIALLY SIGHTED—

Total — 31st December, 1968	..	..	..	261
Names added to register :—				
New cases	..	..	..	47
Transferred from register of blind	..	..	..	—
Transfers In	..	..	..	47
				5
				— 52
				313
Names removed from register :—				
Deaths	..	..	..	24
Transfers to register of Blind	..	..	..	22
Transfers Out	..	..	..	7
Decertified	..	..	..	3
				— 56
Total — 31st December, 1969	..	..	..	257

### BLIND WELFARE OFFICERS VISITS—

Social visits (blind)	..	..	..	..	..	5,759
Social visits (partially sighted)	..	..	..	..	..	960
To give lessons	..	..	..	..	..	365
To investigate new cases	..	..	..	..	..	181
To accompany patients to hospital, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	56
Special visits	..	..	..	..	..	1,632
To homes and hospitals	..	..	..	..	..	437
Conveyance to clubs	..	..	..	..	..	515
						9,905

## CHILDREN.

On 31st December, 1969, the children on the register were classified as follows :—

	Blind	Partially Sighted
Under 5—		
At home .. .. .	2	2
Attending school or nursery school .. .. .	1	1
	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 3
5 — 15		
Attending special schools .. .. .	8	13
Attending other schools .. .. .	1	4
Not at school—health reasons .. .. .	1	—
Ineducable .. .. .	5	3
	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 23
REGISTER OF GENERALLY HANDICAPPED		
Total — 31st December, 1968 ..		1,269
Names added to register :—		
New cases .. .. .	161	
	<hr/> —	<hr/> 161
		1,430
Names removed from register :—		
Deaths .. .. .	73	
Left district and miscellaneous removals from register .. .. .	55	
	<hr/> —	<hr/> 128
Total — 31st December, 1969 ..		1,302
VISITS PAID TO AND ON BEHALF OF GENERALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS .. .. .		8,037
REGISTER OF DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING		
Total — 31st December, 1968 ..		304
Names added to register :—		
New cases .. .. .	8	
Transfers In .. .. .	—	
	<hr/> —	<hr/> 8
		312
Names removed from register :—		
Deaths .. .. .	7	
Left district and miscellaneous removals from register .. .. .	6	
	<hr/> —	<hr/> 13
Total — 31st December, 1969 .. ..		299
VISITS PAID BY STAFF OF NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM MISSION		
At home .. .. .		732
In hospitals .. .. .		134
At work .. .. .		82
On behalf of deaf .. .. .		292
		<hr/> 1240

(In addition, blind welfare officers in the North and West paid 89 visits to deaf persons).



TABLE 23

GENERAL HANDICAPPED—CLASSIFICATIONS  
(including Children under 16)

		Total on register 31st December	New cases registered during year
A/E	Amputation .. .. .	128	14
F	Arthritis and rheumatism .. ..	163	27
G	Congenital deformities .. .. .	81	3
H/L	Diseases of the digestive and genito-urinary systems ; of the respiratory system (other than tuberculosis) and of the skin :—		
	Asthma .. .. .	16	2
	Bronchitis and bronchiectasis.. ..	25	—
	Valvular disease of the heart, angina pectoris, cardiac degeneration, myocarditis, rheumatic heart, mitral stenosis .. .. .	36	6
	Miscellaneous .. .. .	13	2
		— 90	—
Q/T	Injuries of the head, face, neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis or trunk injuries or diseases (other than tuberculosis) of the upper or lower limbs and of the spine :—		
	Paraplegia .. .. .	78	6
	Osteomyelitis .. .. .	7	2
	Muscular atrophy, dystrophy .. ..	21	—
	Miscellaneous injuries .. .. .	96	4
		— 202	
V	Organic nervous diseases :—		
	Disseminated Sclerosis.. .. .	146	23
	Epilepsy .. .. .	62	3
	Parkinson's Disease .. .. .	25	4
	Post Poliomyelitis .. .. .	105	12
	Cerebral Palsy (Spastic) .. .. .	95	8
	Hemiplegia .. .. .	131	42
	Encephalitis Lethargica .. .. .	6	—
	Miscellaneous .. .. .	26	2
		— 596	
U/W	Neurosis, psychosis and other nervous and mental disorders (not included in V)	8	—
Y	Tuberculosis (non-respiratory) .. ..	11	—
Z	Miscellaneous .. .. .	23	1
		— 42	
		1,302	161

TABLE 24.  
HOUSING.

COUNTY DISTRICTS	NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING 1969				TOTAL 1968
	Local Authority	Other Housing Authority	Private	Total	
<i>Municipal Boroughs—</i>					
Berwick upon Tweed ..	—	—	16	16	381
Blyth .. ..	84	—	183	267	168
Morpeth .. ..	—	—	71	71	81
Wallsend .. ..	230	—	23	253	421
Whitley Bay .. ..	15	—	30	45	69
<i>Urban Districts—</i>					
Alnwick .. ..	7	—	24	31	60
Amble .. ..	53	—	6	59	14
Ashington .. ..	246	1	—	247	91
Bedlingtonshire .. ..	136	—	8	144	11
Gosforth .. ..	—	—	22	22	125
Hexham .. ..	—	—	18	18	30
Longbenton .. ..	236	—	133	369	456
Newbiggin by the Sea ..	93	69	97	259	213
Newburn .. ..	310	1,330	137	1,777	969
Prudhoe .. ..	77	—	99	176	90
Seaton Valley .. ..	198	—	654	852	1,046
Boroughs and Urban Districts Total .. ..	1,685	1,400	1,521	4,606	4,225
<i>Rural Districts—</i>					
Alnwick .. ..	10	—	15	25	14
Belford .. ..	4	—	26	30	33
Bellingham .. ..	—	—	5	5	5
Castle Ward .. ..	—	71	129	200	376
Glendale .. ..	—	—	4	4	10
Haltwhistle .. ..	—	—	6	6	33
Hexham .. ..	64	—	101	165	212
Morpeth .. ..	36	—	49	85	63
Norham and Islandshires ..	2	—	2	4	40
Rothbury .. ..	9	—	11	20	20
Rural Districts Total ..	125	71	348	544	806
TOTALS .. ..	1,810	1,471	1,869	5,150	5,031

TABLE 25.  
SLUM CLEARANCE.

COUNTYDISTRICTS.	Formal Action		Discon- tinued Inform- ally	Deducthouses in Col. 1 prev- iously report- ed as 'Closed'	Total Discontinued
	Demol- ished	Closed not Demolished			
<i>Municipal Boroughs—</i>					
Berwick upon Tweed ..	25	—	35	—	60
Blyth .. ..	104	8	—	—	112
Morpeth .. ..	—	1	1	—	2
Wallsend .. ..	110	7	—	6	111
Whitley Bay .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Urban Districts—</i>					
Alnwick .. ..	6	1	—	—	7
Amble .. ..	3	5	—	—	8
Ashington .. ..	7	—	—	—	7
Bedlingtonshire ..	113	14	41	1	167
Gosforth .. ..	33	—	—	—	33
Hexham .. ..	—	5	—	—	5
Longbenton .. ..	8	5	—	—	13
Newbiggin by the Sea ..	159	—	—	—	159
Newburn .. ..	99	24	—	—	123
Prudhoe .. ..	75	—	—	—	75
Seaton Valley .. ..	23	17	—	—	40
Boroughs and Urban Districts Total ..	765	87	77	7	922
<i>Rural Districts—</i>					
Alnwick .. ..	38	—	—	—	38
Belford .. ..	—	4	—	—	4
Bellingham .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Castle Ward .. ..	5	—	—	—	5
Glendale .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Haltwhistle .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Hexham .. ..	1	8	6	—	15
Morpeth .. ..	28	1	1	—	30
Norham and Islandshires	—	—	1	—	1
Rothbury .. ..	—	3	—	—	3
Rural Districts Total ..	72	16	8	—	96
TOTALS .. ..	837	103	85	7	1,018



TABLE 26.

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—(I) Standard Grants.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Number of separate houses for which grants were made	
	During 1969	Total to Date
<i>Municipal Boroughs—</i>		
Berwick upon Tweed .. .. .	5	60
Blyth .. .. .	9	113
Morpeth .. .. .	9	128
Wallsend .. .. .	10	352
Whitley Bay .. .. .	14	83
<i>Urban Districts—</i>		
Alnwick .. .. .	10	67
Amble .. .. .	2	30
Ashington .. .. .	26	151
Bedlingtonshire .. .. .	12	104
Gosforth .. .. .	33	182
Hexham .. .. .	8	70
Longbenton .. .. .	20	179
Newbiggin by the Sea .. .. .	7	139
Newburn .. .. .	32	293
Prudhoe .. .. .	4	41
Seaton Valley .. .. .	17	198
Boroughs and Urban Districts Total ..	218	2,190
<i>Rural Districts—</i>		
Alnwick .. .. .	22	306
Belford .. .. .	2	46
Bellingham .. .. .	6	50
Castle Ward .. .. .	7	65
Glendale .. .. .	3	169
Haltwhistle .. .. .	16	108
Hexham .. .. .	15	163
Morpeth .. .. .	7	99
Norham and Islandshires .. .. .	3	27
Rothbury .. .. .	2	37
Rural Districts Total .. .. .	83	1,070
TOTALS .. .. .	301	3,260

## NUMBER OF HOUSES PROVIDED WITH

	Bath or Shower	Washhand Basin	Hot Water Supply	Water Closet	Food Store
1969 .. .. .	172	181	184	277	140
Total to Date.. .. .	2081	2326	2063	2573	1711

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—(2) Discretionary Grants.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Applications dealt with during 1969			Total approved to date
	Submitted to Local Authority	Rejected	Approved	
<i>Municipal Boroughs—</i>				
Berwick upon Tweed .. .. .	13	—	13	240
Blyth .. .. .	27	—	27	411
Morpeth .. .. .	2	—	2	170
Wallsend .. .. .	27	—	22	601
Whitley Bay .. .. .	4	1	2	68
<i>Urban Districts—</i>				
Alnwick .. .. .	9	—	9	152
Amble .. .. .	14	—	14	279
Ashington .. .. .	125	—	125	2,538
Bedlingtonshire .. .. .	39	—	39	1,100
Gosforth .. .. .	—	—	—	2
Hexham .. .. .	21	—	21	230
Longbenton .. .. .	94	2	92	400
Newbiggin by the Sea .. .. .	12	—	12	226
Newburn .. .. .	6	—	6	319
Prudhoe .. .. .	7	—	7	177
Seaton Valley .. .. .	11	—	11	207
Boroughs and Urban Districts Total .. .. .	411	3	402	7,120
<i>Rural Districts—</i>				
Alnwick .. .. .	23	9	14	504
Belford .. .. .	3	—	3	265
Bellingham .. .. .	10	—	10	315
Castle Ward .. .. .	19	—	19	498
Glendale .. .. .	7	—	7	623
Haltwhistle .. .. .	39	—	39	388
Hexham .. .. .	83	1	82	1,298
Morpeth .. .. .	63	—	63	675
Norham and Islandshires .. .. .	19	—	19	325
Rothbury .. .. .	10	—	10	383
Rural Districts Total .. .. .	276	10	266	5,274
TOTALS .. .. .	687	13	668	12,394







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